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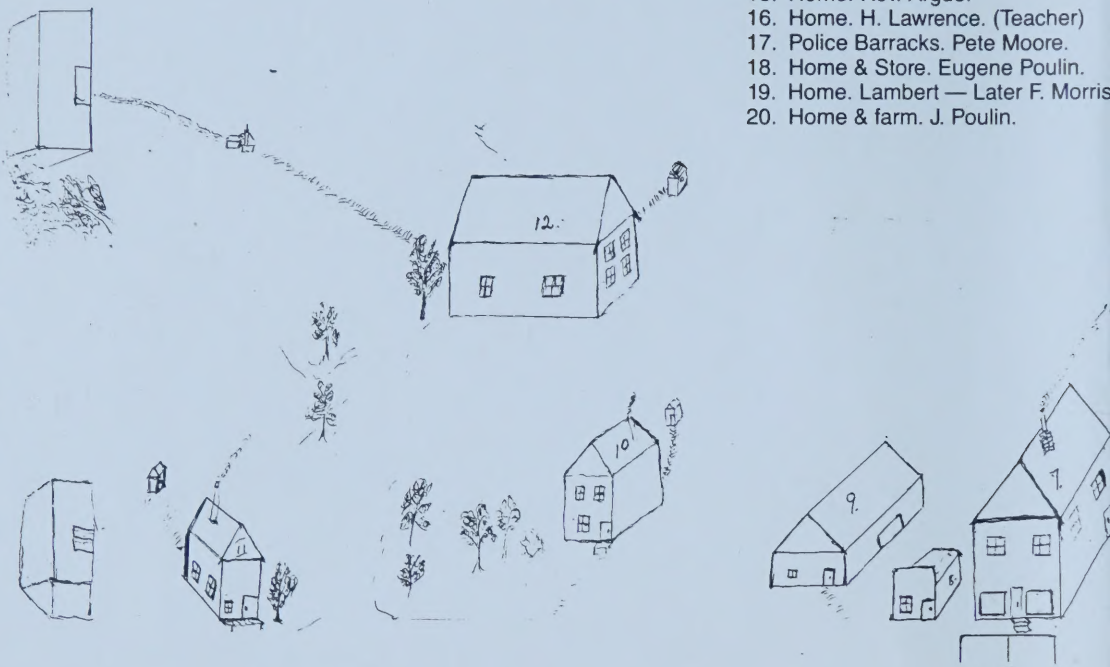
S.W. Sec. 2.52.15 West 4th

Old Vegreville. 190

1. Hotel. E. Hawrthorne.
2. Store. C. Spence & A. Fleming.
3. Merchants Bank.
4. Restaurant. J. Cameron.
5. Blacksmith. Shorty Anderson —
6. Store. Cole & Abbott.
7. Store. Clement & Son.
8. Post Office.
9. Implements. A. M. Thompson.
10. House. Geo. Robertson.
11. Livery Barn & Stopping House. W.
12. Home & farm. M. Cole.
13. Butcher shop. Oscar Chiswell. —
14. Home. Dr. Rush.
15. Home. Rev. Argue.
16. Home. H. Lawrence. (Teacher)
17. Police Barracks. Pete Moore.
18. Home & Store. Eugene Poulin.
19. Home. Lambert — Later F. Morris
20. Home & farm. J. Poulin.

3 miles South
to old Vegreville

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Map of Old Vegreville donated to Vegreville and District Historical Society by Mr. John Leach.

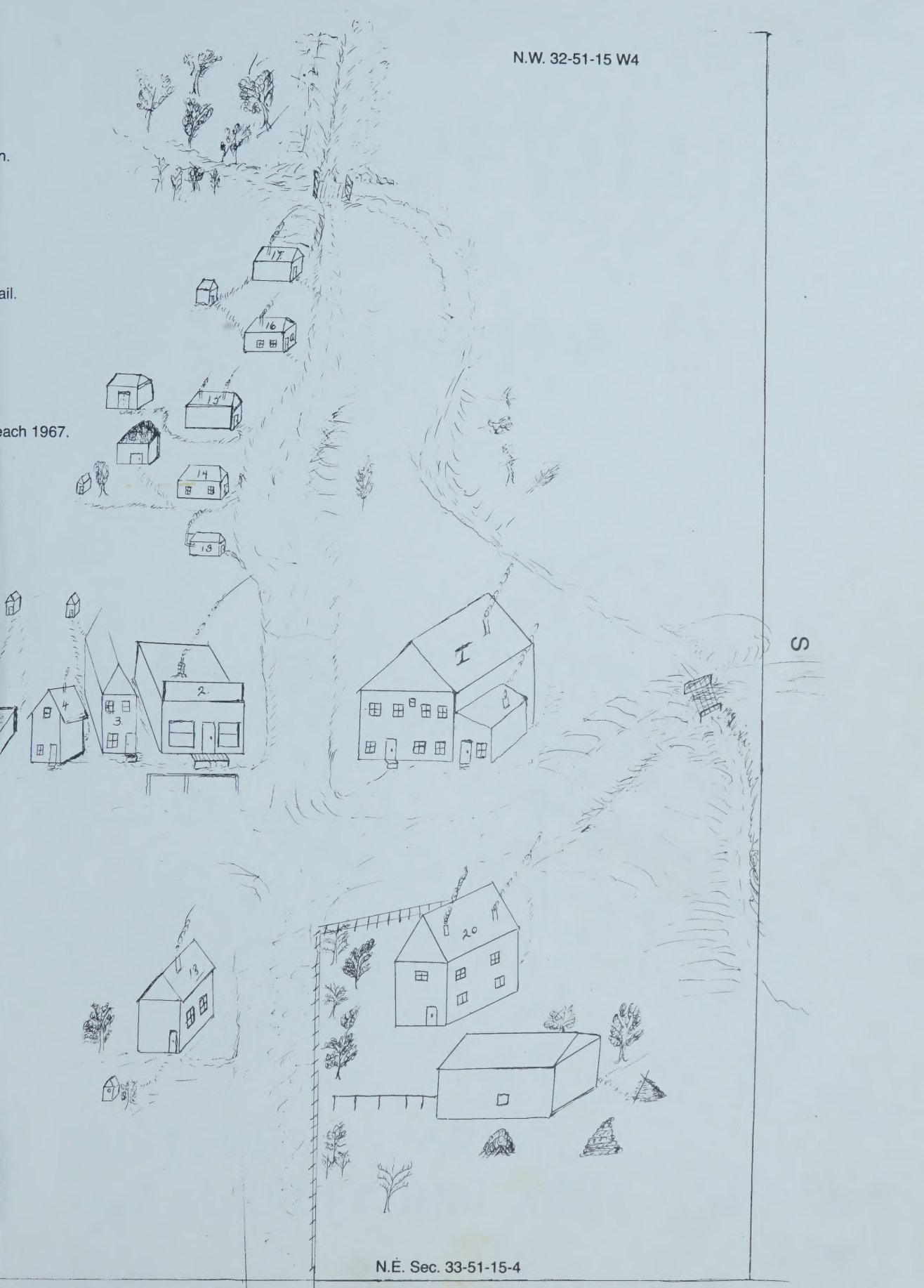
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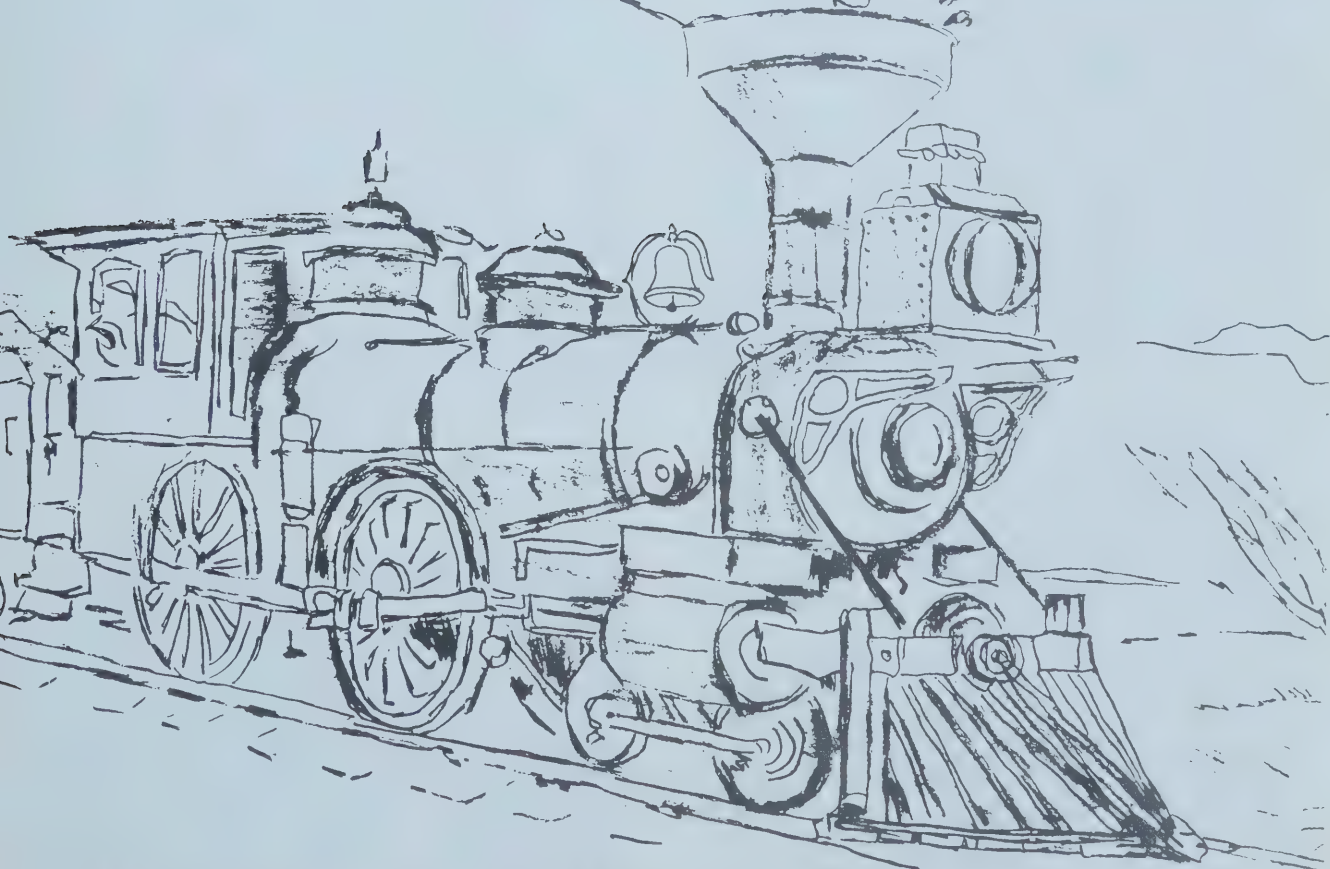
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VEGREVILLE IN REVIEW



**HISTORY of VEGREVILLE
and SURROUNDING AREA 1880-1980**

Volume II

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Goshko, James and Mary

by Katherine (Baydala) Rozak, granddaughter

James (everyone called him Jim), was born April 12, 1874, in the village of Laniwtsi, county of Borschiw, province of Halychyna, Ukraine. He married Mary Hyshka who grew up in the same village. They believed strongly that the land was the place for them and that it would give them a good living.

The stories of free land in Canada, a land that would produce any grain, and the fact that his friend Mike Korpan was already here, prompted James to emigrate with his wife and son Harry in 1900. It took twelve days to cross the ocean and Mary said she spent much of her time helping in the ship's kitchen by peeling potatoes and doing other chores. Eighteen-month-old Harry had the run of the ship and was saved by a passenger from falling overboard.

They settled on a homestead five miles south and five miles west of Vegreville. The Borschiw Ukrainian Catholic Church got its name from the community where many of the settlers came from and this is where James and Mary are buried. In 1915 Jim built a large eight-room house of solid concrete blocks. It was not very practical because in winter the walls were always wet from condensation. In this house there were many get-togethers of friends and relatives, and many times Jim took a family in for the winter until they could move to their own home. The house stands empty now.

When the sons became adults, each received a quarter section of land and the daughters received the equivalent in money.

Jim was not able to read, but later in life he learned by his own efforts. Mary did not read or write but managed the household. It was up to her to feed the family, plant enough potatoes, make enough sauerkraut, and set enough clucking hens to have eggs and chicken soup in the winter. One winter there were fourteen people living in the big house. When I asked



Jim and Maria Goshko celebrating their 40th Wedding Anniversary — early 1940's.

grandmother how she managed, she replied, "There were many of us, but everyone helped."

There were four sons and five daughters:

Nick, Andrew and Lena have passed on.

Harry and Mary (married to Mike Poweley) live in Edmonton.

Peter lives in Sherwood Park.

Anna married Nick Baydala, Sophie married Nick Rurka, Pearl married John Berezon, and they all live in Vegreville.

Goshko, Myroslaw Demetrius Russell and Anne **by Anne Goshko**

This name, Myroslaw, was a hard name to remember and pronounce so he was given a nickname, Russell. Russell was born November 8, 1910, in Borshchiw.

Russell took his early education in the Myroslaw School, south-west of Inland, and Leachville Schools. Although the schools were over three and one-half miles from home he had to walk regardless of the weather. During the early days the children went barefoot from spring to fall. One day it had snowed while he was barefoot in school and he had to wait at a neighbor's place for his dad to come and drive him home. Russell finished high school in Vegreville in 1929. The fall of 1929 he entered the University of Alberta in Edmonton to take up medicine. His dad died in 1930 so he had to drop out of school to take care of his mother and put his two sisters through school and farm the land. In 1938 he married Anne Triska, the second daughter of William and Pauline Triska. Russell and Anne settled on his father's (Tymko Goshko) homestead. They are farming 800 acres of land to this day.

Anne was born July 25, 1914, at Slawa, Alberta, where her parents farmed for nine years. The land at Slawa was very sandy and had lots of rocks so the parents moved to Park Grove district in the spring of 1916. Anne went to Park Grove School up to grade 8, then she had to continue her education in the Vegreville High School, the same school that Russell went to a few years earlier. Anne trained under Miss O'Brian and graduated as a Registered Nurse from the Vegreville General Hospital. She also won first prize for writing the case history on a patient. Jobs were scarce for nurses in 1936. Anne applied at many places, finally got a job at the Radway Hospital in 1937. She worked for \$25.00 a month with board and room. In 1938 Anne worked in Doctor Kickham's office in Westlock as a special nurse. She worked at the Health Unit #25, the Auxiliary Hospital and part-time at the Nursing Home. Later, she retired from nursing.

Russell was secretary-treasurer of the Inland



Russell Goshko and Anne Triska — old-fashioned wedding, in front of Triska's farmhouse, 1938.

School #4428 for many years until it closed in 1955. Then a community centre was formed.

In 1965 Russell was elected as a Wheat Pool delegate from District 603 and held this position until 1978.

Russell was very active in community affairs. He was the President of the Home and School Association and was also the President of the Boy Scout Association. He conducted the Vegreville Ukrainian Orthodox Church choir and taught Ukrainian dancing. He took over as Registrar of Vital Statistics from his dad. To this day he still takes an active part in the community, attending many conventions and seminars. One thing to remember, Russell had a devoted wife who managed the house and looked after the chores while he was away looking after the public's interests.

Russell and Anne had three children, Christine, Patricia and Edward. They started school at Inland until it was closed, then went by bus to Holden. When the boundaries were changed, the children were bussed to Vegreville. Since the roads had no gravel, the school bus driver refused to travel over them when they were muddy, causing the children to miss too much school. The municipality refused to do anything about the roads so Russell and Anne decided to build a house in Vegreville thereby allowing their children a better chance to get a good education.

Christine was in grade 7 when she joined the "Inland Merry Workers" 4-H Sewing Club, and later joined the 4-H Beef Club. She enjoyed looking after animals.

After finishing high school in Vegreville, Christine entered the General Hospital School of Nursing in Edmonton where she graduated in 1962. She

worked in St. Joseph's General Hospital in Vegreville. She married Peter Pawluk of Mundare, in the fall of 1962 and continued nursing part-time in the General Hospital at Mundare. She played the piano beautifully. She was a pupil of Mrs. B. Clements, far advanced in music. She sang in the church choir. They have four children: Cathryn, Karen, Gordon and Billy.

Patricia finished her education in Vegreville High School. She also studied music and took piano lessons from Mrs. B. Clements. She enjoyed playing the piano and the accordion, and she sang in the church choir. She also coached a school basketball team. Later she entered Alberta College and took up Business Administration. She worked for the Alberta Department of Agriculture at Vegreville and at the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration office.

In 1963 Patricia married Constable Ron Tucker of the R.C.M.P. and they moved to Smoky Lake where Ron was stationed. Later they moved to Regina, Calgary and Vancouver. They have two children, Bobby and Brian.

Edward Goshko was our adopted son. He was educated in Vegreville Composite High School. Edward was involved in many activities. He played in the school football team as well as being in the Vegreville School Band. He loved to beat the drums. He joined the Boy Scouts in 1956, liked to teach Sunday School and sang in the Church Choir. He passed away in 1966.

Goshko, Tymko and Family

Tymko Goshko came to Canada in 1903 with his family and settled in the Borschchiw (now Inland) Community with his wife and four sons. He was born in the Village of Laniwci, County of Borschchiw, Halychyna, (Galicia), Austria (now Ukraine). He had four sons and three daughters.

Michael taught school for thirty-five years and was also a draftsman.

Zachary taught school and later went farming.

Demetrius also taught school. Now he is in business with his daughter and son-in-law in Kamloops, B.C.

Myroslaw (Russel) went one year to the University of Alberta and then began farming.

Anne was one of the first Ukrainian Nurses in Alberta graduating from the University of Alberta Hospital. She has now retired and lives in Vancouver.

Joann is a graduate from the University of Alberta, also a teacher. She is living in Smithers, B.C.

Olga is a Normal School graduate and is still teaching in Hazelton, B.C.

Tymko believed in cultural promotion and education. He was one of the first to make substantial

donations, one of them being one thousand dollars to P. Mohyla Institute to help students go to school and reach a higher education.



Moscow Hall Ukrainian School of Dancing and Choir, under the leadership of Russell Goshko, 1931.



On old homestead. Russell Goshko plowing garden with four horses and walking plow. Good old windmill acted as hired man, pumping water, 1931.



Russell, Joann and Metro Goshko, in front of batching quarters, north of track, during school days, 1926.

The older boys attended the School for Foreigners in 1913. All his children became community leaders, choir directors and all loved music and singing.

Russell was teaching Ukrainian Dancing, being a graduate in the School of Dancing in 1933. He taught in Vegreville and Borshchiw Hall in the country. He was president of the Vegreville Boys' Scouts and delegate for the Alberta Wheat Pool for twelve years and also was a choir director of the Ukrainian Greek Orthodox Church for many years. He takes an interest in many public affairs.

Tymko Goshko had the Borshchiw Post Office established in the community in his home in April, 1907. He was Post Master of it for eleven years. He called it Borshchiw to commemorate its origin, as many Ukrainian people came from there. He used to go by team and buggy in the wintertime to meet the train, pick up the mail and bring it home. At that time it was 60 degrees below zero. The winters were very cold. He would go and wait for the train that never was on schedule and sometimes wouldn't come at all, and he'd return home without the mail. But he had strong determination that the mail must go. Those are the people that really made Canada what it is today. They weren't lobbyists as we have so many now in every field. After Tymko gave up the post office it became "Inland Post Office".

Tymko had a hard time when he first came to Canada. There was no welfare those days, no one to give him help. A person was totally on his own. One either made it or starved and died.

His wife died during her first year in Canada and he was left with the children, but in a few years he remarried and kept on farming.

Later he had acquired a total of one thousand four hundred and forty acres of land.

He always promoted education and in 1910 he had



Tymko Goshko family: (l. to r.) — grandma Kozdrowski, Mike Goscoe — Tymko's oldest son, grandma Wawryk, Joan Goshko, Dave Goshko, Tymko Goshko — dad of the family, Mary Goshko — Dave's wife, Maria Goshko — Tymko's wife and mother of the family; Zachary Goshko, Anne Goshko, Myroslaw (Russell) Goshko, Olga Goshko, 1928.

a school built in the community and named it Myroslaw School. The school was named after a famous man named Myroslaw Sichynsky who assassinated the Governor of Holychyna Grof Potoski. Grof was a bitter enemy of the Ukrainians. In Tymko Goshko we lost a good Ukrainian leader who was sorely missed, as he was not only generous with his time and money but he could inspire others with the same devotion.

Tymko Goshko died on January 17, 1930. Joann and Russell attended University at that time. Maria, Tymko's wife helped take care of the farm with her son Russell from 1930 until 1940 when she moved to Vancouver to live with her daughter Joann Young. She died in 1970.

Now we all have pleasant memories as the time passes. This year August 2, 1979, the Goshko Clan had a family reunion on the old "Homestead" which is still farmed by Russell and his wife Anne. There were three family clans of Goshko's some of whom never met before; there was joy, laughter and tears of joy as we met. There were seventy-six people attending (young and old). People came from Victoria, Prince George, Chicago, Los Angeles, Kamloops, Vegreville, Edmonton, Westlock, Mannville, Vancouver, Hazelton and Clear Water, Alberta. We believe it is a very good gesture to have a family reunion and exchange views of the past. We need more of this.

Green, Joseph by Joseph Dubuc

Joseph Green Sr. came from Wawanesa, Man. in 1906. His uncle, Horace Green, was an originator of today's large and popular Wawanesa Insurance Company. From that city Green Sr. (Chas' father), along with a Mr. Chamberlain, started the first livery barn in Vegreville, situated where the present Raydon Body Shop is (Chas'. place of employment). The writer recalls when the Market Square was just adjacent and across the road, south, was Pete Kostinuik's Second-Hand Store, George Fliczuk Groceries and present Felmo Tire Building, also Mike Kostashuk's Feed Mill.

Messrs. Green and Chamberlain did much livery work with horses for any one, but mostly for doctors Couillard and Reid on their country calls. About that time they obtained a contract to drive government surveyors on a job. Mr. Green undertook this task. From Vegreville to Lesser Slave Lake by barge (horse and all) to Grouard, then again by land to Dunvegan. In 1945 Charlie and dad Joe found one surveyor's stake, markings and all, that he recalled being placed by the government representatives in about 1908-09.

Joseph Green farmed with Jim Cadzow two

miles north of Vegreville, east of the present Warwick highway. He soon branched out into stock-buying with Jim Cadzow, after disposing of the livery barn. George Miller, a friend of Green's, said he remembers how fast and far Joe Green could walk as he went about surveying stock with the view of making a purchase. Joe Green Sr. died in 1964. His wife, Emilie (Moisin), in 1958. She was of a French Canadian family who resided at Brosseau, exactly where the north end of the bridge is presently located, but then was a bit west of the north landing site of the ferry.

Charles Green said his older brother Joe could supply many more accurate details, but he (Joe) retired, spends summers at Vermilion, Alberta, and winters in Arizona, where he is at the time of writing. Other remaining members of the Greens are; Maryanne (Mrs. Harvey Ditburner), Lillian (Mrs. Stanley Lemiski), Irene (Mrs. John McCarty), Stella (Mrs. Sheilock), our own local Charlie (Buck) and Nellie (Mrs. Smarfit).

Green, Joseph Edward and Emily by Marion Dittberner

Joseph Edward Green came to Vegreville from Wawanesa, Manitoba, in 1900, and opened a Livery Stable with Chambers. They operated the only taxi service in the Vegreville district at that time. Joe was a 3rd generation Canadian — Irish on his father's side and English on his mother's. In 1911 he met and married our mother, Emily Moisan from Duvernay, Alberta; she had come by oxen team from Sherbrooke, Que., with her family to homestead. She was French on both sides and a second-generation Canadian. They built the fine big house now known as Hankie Place on Main Street and 56 Ave. and raised seven children there.

Joseph Jr. now in Vermilion, Alberta.

Marion (Dittberner) in Lethbridge, Alberta.

Lillian (Lemiski) in Hardisty, Alberta.

Irene (McCarty) in Edmonton.

Charles Green still in Vegreville.

Stella (Sherlocke) in New Westminster, B.C.

Nellie (Jacobson) in Vancouver.

We all attended St. Martin's school and were fortunate enough to take French there so are all bilingual. In 1912 our father went into the Stock Yard Business with Dave and Tim Rose and Jim Cadzow, a business he kept and operated until the first year of the war. I remember well the pre-depression years when many Polish and Ukrainian immigrants came to the Vegreville district. Our dad hired 5 of them to clear some land we owned northeast of town. These men cleared this land by hand with sort of short sickles and they bedded down in our barn. They were

so poor they wrapped their feet in newspapers inside rubber boots, also lined their jackets the same for extra warmth. Ironically, all went on to much better lives; one is now a millionaire many times over, owning a large construction firm in Edmonton.

My brother Joe and his friend Delmar Hantiuk dug a cave in the bushes back of our place; Moloffy's cow fell in it and broke her leg and had to be shot; Bill Rogers (town policeman) came to our place. Much trouble.

At the edge of these same bushes the gypsies and Indians came every summer in their covered wagons to camp with a multitude of children and mangy dogs. The gypsy women went from house to house begging and wanting to tell fortunes. We were frightened to death of them as the story went, "If you are naughty, the gypsies will take you away with them." The men never seemed to do much, just lounged around the camp fire where a huge iron pot boiled over a tripod emitting very exotic odors; am sure they cooked gophers in this stew as they certainly trapped them.

Another memory comes back to me; when the R.C.M.P. Barracks were directly behind our place in the old Poser house. The prisoners were made to saw and chop wood in the backyard. We kids would stand and watch them and wonder what crimes they had committed, though most of them were in merely for making moonshine or fighting.

In 1930 Harvey Dittberner came to Vegreville from New Norway, Alberta. He worked in the Burns' Creamery for Jim McLellan and took over manager-ship in 1931. We were married in 1933, have two children: a daughter Shirley Ann and a son Ronald. In 1935 and 36 Harvey won the highest possible awards in butter-making; he was presented with a gold engraved watch by Premier Aberhart at a banquet in Calgary. At another banquet in his honor, in Vegreville, Pat Burns and several other high ranking officials of Burns and Co. attended. On their way back to Edmonton they had car trouble and almost froze to death because it was 45 degrees below. They all landed up in the hospital at Lamont.

Gregory, Robert and Lois

Bob was born on June 16, 1921 to Sam and Anna Gregory, who began farming here in 1915. He attended school at Kolomea, west of Park Grove. When he left school he helped his father farm. In the winter he worked at a lumber mill, in the railroad shops, at a wholesale grocery, and for a contractor.

Lois was born on March 9, 1926 and attended Park Grove School, Vermilion School (Ryan) and Vegreville High School. She supervised classes at Park Grove for one year during the teacher shortage



Bob Gregory family, 1971. (l. to r.) — Dianne Smiley, Mitchell Gregory, Lionel Gregory, Cecil Gregory, Carol Linden. Lois and Bob in front.



Gregory farmstead — Sam and Anna Gregory moved here (NE 8-53-15-W4) in 1915. Built brick house in 1925. Building in front of haystack (right) was original home moved to this site from creek (S.E.). Bob and Lois Gregory have lived here since 1950.

In 1941, she operated one of the two binders her father had hooked behind the tractor. This was during the war when there was shortage of farm workers.

Lois remembers going to school by sleigh through the fields, because the roads were drifted; skiing home behind the sleigh when the weather was nice; riding horses to Park Grove School in the spring because there were so many washouts a buggy couldn't get through. She played defense for the girls hockey team at Vegreville High and also bowled in the high school league. Following the year she supervised classes at Park Grove she then worked in Vegreville as a clerk.

They were married on November 9, 1946 and rented land southwest of Vegreville (Zaseybida Farm). Then in 1950, Bob's parents moved to Edmonton and Bob and Lois moved onto the home place (NE 8-53-15-W14).

In 1947, having no crop to harvest because of the hailstorms, Bob decided to do custom work. He

loaded the swather onto the truck which his brother Marshall drove to his uncle's farm west of Edmonton. Bob drove the combine there. He crossed the Dawson Bridge and went through the city on 107 Avenue. This was with a fourteen-foot table on the combine.

In 1969 Bob went to work at Ezee-On Manufacturing as a welder. He received his second class journeyman's ticket in April 1977.

Lois is involved in community clubs. She has been secretary, treasurer, and president of the local farm women's group, was secretary of the Vegreville Home and School Association for two years; president of the United Church Women's Evening Group; treasurer of the United Church Women; Secretary for ten years of the Park Grove Community Centre.

She has been a member of the Order of the Royal Purple for twenty-seven years where she held many offices including president for one year, and District Deputy for three terms. She has attended six national conventions of this organization.

Bob was active with local farm organization, one year as president; was also president of the local Rural Telephone Company and has been an active member of the Vegreville Elks for twenty-nine years.

Five children were born to this marriage.

Dianne is married to Eric Smiley and they live in Leduc with a son and a daughter.

Lionel had polio in 1952 and has been able to live an active life. He married Cecile Laliberto and they have two sons and one daughter. He is working for a construction firm in Vegreville.

Cecil is working in Edmonton and has his second-year machinist course completed.

Mitchell works in Edmonton.

Carol is married to Kerry Linden and works for the Transportation Department of the Alberta Government.

Gregory, Sam and Annie

The village of Wydiniw, county of Sniatyn, was astir with excitement and activity. For at least a decade, beginning about 1900, neighboring villages had been sending out their sons and daughters, in greater and lesser numbers, to the New World, especially Canada. It is true that Wydiniw, too, had seen its quota of emigrants depart to the new land. But to Sam Gregory this day in early spring of 1913 was particularly exciting, for he, as part of this group, was saying farewell to his parents and his brothers.

Sam was eighteen years old. He was nearing the age of compulsory military service, and there were plenty of rumours of impending hostilities among contending empires — Austro-Hungarian, Russian, and German. Moreover, there was hardly anyone in the village who was not receiving letters from a

friend or a relative that Canada was, indeed, the Land of Promise. So, to Sam, it seemed now or never.

Sam was born in 1895, son of Alexius and Euphrasina Gregorichuk. Besides his parents, he was leaving behind his brothers, Nykyfir, Wasyf, and John. They, too, had vague ambitions to emigrate, but as it happened, they had to live through a terrible war and its aftermath before they could join their brother in Canada.

For a citizen of Austria, 1913 was not the most propitious time to arrive in Canada; for at that time Canada was going through a depression and unemployment. Fortunately for Sam, there were many Ukrainian families already well established in Alberta. Iwan Svarich was one of these, and it was on his farm northwest of Vegreville, Alberta, that Sam found employment and a home.

Sam was doubly fortunate. In the home of Iwan and Maria Svarich, he met, courted, and married Annie, their youngest daughter.

Annie was born in 1897 in the village of Tulowa, Wydiniw's neighbour county of Sniatyn, province of Halychyna, Ukraine. At the age of three, together with her parents, two brothers and five sisters, she landed in Canada in March 1900. The family homesteaded in the Vegreville district. Her father was one of the relatively few Ukrainian settlers who had sufficient capital to establish a viable farm in the space of a few years. For Annie, the youngest child, this meant a happy childhood, a sound elementary education in Kolomea School and in the public school in the town of Vegreville where she stayed with her brother, Andrew, and his wife, Parania. Here too, she acquired a creditable command of the English language.

Two years after their meeting in the home of her parents, Annie and Sam were married and began their life together on a farm two miles away. Their life in Sich-Kolomea, as the district was commonly known, was typical. They worked hard, improved their farm, and raised a family of four boys: John, Bohdan (Bob), Eugene, and Marshall. Bob's twin brother died at birth.

But Sam and Annie found ample opportunity to participate in the social and cultural life of the community, many of whose members were Annie's relatives. Consequently, for all the years they lived on the farm, their home was regularly a gathering place for all manner of family gatherings — weddings, christenings, anniversary celebrations. Both Sam and Annie were of a hospitable nature and popular among the "young set" of the community. Sam's fine tenor voice and acting ability made him a "natural" for the church choir and public concerts, and the plays that were popular cultural activity in those years. Annie,

too, was active in these activities, particularly in the plays that were staged in the schools and community halls in the neighborhood. Perhaps, their soundest contribution to the life of the community was their interest and support of the Sich-Kolomea Ukrainian Orthodox Church in the organization of which Sam played a prominent part.

In 1950, Sam and Annie sold their farm to their son, Bob, and retired in Edmonton; and almost from the very beginning they became absorbed into the community life of the city.

Sam passed away on January 21, 1967. By this time his sons were well established in the respective professions and vocations. John, the eldest, M. Sc. graduate of the University of Alberta, married Lillian Plawiuk in 1946 and is head of the Industrial and Engineering Services of the Research Council of Alberta in Edmonton. Their son, John Marshall, obtained the degree of B.C Sc. in Chemical Engineering (U. of A.) and is presently teaching in K-bala, Sierra Leone, Africa. Robert, their other son, is working in Eastern Canada.

Bob, married to Lois Ziegler of Vegreville, is farming the original farmstead. They have five children: Dianne (Smiley), Lionel, Cecil, Mitchell, and Carol (Linden).

Eugene, unmarried, worked as supervisor for Parke-Davis Pharmaceutical Company in Vancouver, B.C. He passed away in January 1976.

Marshall, the youngest, married Ethel Harris, and is supervisor for West Coast Transmission Company in Fort Nelson, B.C.

Their widowed mother, Annie, continues to live in Edmonton. The death of her husband has in no way dampened her interest or abated her participation in the activities of the community, particularly in the parish of St. John's Ukrainian Orthodox church. She has earned a well-deserved reputation as the "master cook" for many of its functions. Even today, at the age of 75, she is quite capable of taking charge of the culinary preparations which, not uncommonly, serve several hundred people.

Reprinted with permission from "Ukrainians in Alberta".

Griffin, Norman and Ella

by Elizabeth Giebelhaus

Around 1905 Norman and Ella Griffin left Oshawa, Ontario for the wild west and settled on N.E. of 21-50-15-4. They were great farmers, and are remembered not only for their agricultural activities, but also for having the first "Wireless" in the community which caused great excitement for miles around.

Ella had a large flock of chickens in the early



Mr. and Mrs. Norman Griffin during their retirement in Oshawa in 1956.

thirties (200) and was extremely fond of her many flowers, shrubs and garden.

In those days Veterinarians were scarce, so people like Norman developed special preferences for home cures like hanging banana stalks in the chicken house to prevent lice, and of course the ever-famous Dr. Bell's Veterinary Medicines (Dark brownish liquid) for just about everything!

In the spring of 1946 they sold their farm to the Klammer family and retired to Oshawa, but returned to the Vegreville and Holden community many times for a visit.

Grosfield, Carl and Grace by Grace Grosfield

Comparative newcomers to Vegreville, the family of Carl and Grace Grosfield came here in 1964 to begin a new career with Alberta Government Telephones. Carl had served seven years with the Royal Canadian Air Force prior to this time. He was born on the family farm near Brooks, Alberta in 1936, and first enlisted in 1957. After serving a three-year hitch, he spent one year helping at home, during which he met his future wife, Grace Shankey. Grace was born in 1942 at Bassano, Alberta, a small town about thirty miles from Brooks, and grew up in Brooks. Both Carl and Grace completed their High School studies in Brooks, and became engaged Christmas, 1960. In January, 1961, Carl re-enlisted in the Air Force. The following August, they were married in Our Lady of Perpetual Help Roman Catholic Church in Brooks, and moved to Edmonton, where Carl was stationed at Namao Air Base, Transport Command.

The next three and one-half years brought joys and sorrows, as their first-born son Eric died at the



Carl, Grace, Larry, Doug and Karen Grosfield, 1975.

age of six weeks. Two years later Larry was born, and when he was less than one week old, Carl terminated his hitch with the R.C.A.F. and was hired by A.G.T. as a microwave technician. After a period of familiarization courses with A.G.T. they were transferred in December of 1964 to Vegreville where they reside today.

In September of 1965, the family of three became a family of four with the addition of another son, Doug, who was born in the brand new St. Joseph's General Hospital in Vegreville.

The family was completed by the welcome arrival of a lovely daughter, Karen, in October, 1968. Just like a woman, she had to be different — she was born in Brooks, Alberta during a prolonged stay at the home of Grace's mother, Arminda Shankey.

As the children grew up, Carl and Grace began to get more involved in the community. A model airplane club was started in 1969 by Carl and several young men in town — Rollie Shapka, Ted Tomy, Reg Killam, Guy Morrison, Virgil Rosko and others. These fellows spent many hours together enjoying their mutual hobby over the next few years, their numbers augmented or replaced by others as time passed.

1968 was an important year in the life of the Grosfield family, although we didn't realize it then. The birth of a daughter seemed big itself! The Boy Scouts of Canada acquired a new member that year also — Carl became an assistant cubmaster under Frazer McDougall. This was the start of something that continues still. The whole family was eventually to become involved.

The following year, the Scout Troop needed a

leader, and Carl took on that role, which he fulfilled for three years, until 1972. From 1970 until 1979, there were many other positions held by Carl in Scouting — District President, Venturer Advisor, Cubmaster, Patrol Counsellor, Assistant Regional Commissioner, in fact every leadership role except Beaver Leader. Beavers weren't around when he started or he'd probably have done that too! Carl attended Cuborees, Camporees, and Jamborees as a leader of groups of boys from Vegreville, and cherishes the memories from all of them. In 1979 he became involved in the over-all planning for the Canadian Jamboree, to be held in July, 1981, in Kananaskis Country, west of Calgary, Alberta.

While Carl maintained his involvement in Scouting, the rest of the family continued to grow up, and Larry joined Wolf Cubs in 1972. Doug enrolled one year later, and both boys proceeded through all the sections of Scouting.

The distaff side must not be forgotten. Grace began her Scouting career as Treasurer for the local Parents' Group in 1972, a position she held for three years. Besides doing her share on other committees, she was Group President for three years, and was Public Relations Chairman in 1979-80. Throughout this time, Grace also served as liaison with the next level in the Scouting organization, the Northern Region Council in Edmonton.

Karen joined Girl Guides of Canada in 1975, as a Brownie, and was in her second year of Girl Guides in 1979.

Over all these years, the Grosfield family had many other involvements as well. The Fish and Game and Gun Club was one of these. Carl was a member since 1971, and was instrumental in teaching Firearms Safety courses to several groups of Scouts, and to the general public also. His co-workers in this, John Avey and Steve Cannady, also worked with him in teaching safe canoeing practices to members of the Boy Scout troops over several years.

Carl served two years on the Vegreville Recreation Board, one of these as Secretary. He was a Director of the Alberta Snowmobile Association for two years, and a member of the Vegreville Snowmobile Club until it disbanded.

In the fall of 1974, the leader of the Vegreville Community Band became unable to continue due to ill health. Because Larry and Doug were already in the band, and because Carl had many years of experience as a band person in high school, and in the Maritime Air Command Band in Nova Scotia during his Air Force career, he stepped into the conductor's shoes, and the band could continue. Thanks to everyone involved, the Vegreville Community Band was able to give a very creditable concert performance in



Larry and Doug Grosfield off to Cub Camp, 1974.

June of 1975, plus appearing in several other places around town that spring and summer.

The fall of 1975 was marked by the loss of several excellent musicians, young men who were off to University or otherwise pursuing their lives after finishing high school. The band struggled through the 1975-76 season without these fellows — Robin Nawrot, two boys from Andrew, and others, — but with the addition of some new people Grace Grosfield on a bell-lyra, Lloyd Love on saxophone or clarinet, and many more new musicians, all received musical instruction through this band under Carl Grosfield. This continued in 1976-77 under the direction of Ken Wells.

1977-78 was poorer for the lack of a Community Band in Vegreville, but in September of 1978, a group of former band members asked Carl to conduct again, and the Vegreville Community Band was restarted. There was an enthusiastic initial response, and a great number of budding musicians began their careers. Daughter Karen showed promise as a snare drummer, and joined the rest of the family in yet another aspect of their busy life.

As this book goes to print, the Grosfield family, though not natives of Vegreville, feel they are truly members of this community, through the many years of service they have given and enjoyed while working primarily for and with the youth of this area. "Getting Involved" could well be their family motto!

Gudz, Joseph

by daughter Christine, as told to M. L. English
Nov. 25, 1978

Joseph Gudz married Anna Pastiwnychny and they came to Halifax, Canada, in 1904 from Brody, Austria, to Alberta, (N.W.T.). They stayed one year

with Paul Tymchuk until a homestead was obtained, four miles from there, actually five miles south of present Two Hills.

The eldest child Mary was one and a half years old and baby Sophia three weeks old. The mother was extremely seasick. Her young sister (twelve years old), was along to help with the babies. She was Helen Pastiwnychny, who never returned to Europe. She married Hewko, who was seventeen and a half and she was fifteen and a half. They had eleven children and she is now ninety-four (1978).

Gudz's had five more daughters in Canada (seven in all): Mary Fedechko; Sophie Krawchuk (deceased — Two Hills); Nancy Malofy; Tillie Krewusik and Eva Ferby (twins); Christine Tymko (Two Hills) and Jenny Sargison.

Mrs. Gudz died in 1943 at sixty-six years of age; Joseph died in 1951 at seventy-one years of age. They are buried at New Kiew.

Hacker H. H.

by Frances (Hacker) MacGregor

Harold Hamilton Hacker, son of George G. Hacker, was born in 1883 in Hamilton, Ontario, and



H. H. Hacker residence, corner of 2nd St. and 2nd Ave. W., about 1930. Mr. and Mrs. Hacker with Margaret and Frances (front). This residence still stands, corner of 50th Ave. (Highway #16) and 52 St. (Demolished by printing date.)



Hacker's Men's Wear, second store in Dobbins Block. G. G. Hacker in front, about 1914.

educated in Renfrew, Ontario. Apprenticed to a tailor in Manitou, Manitoba, he came to Vegreville in 1906 to start his Men's Wear store. After spending some years adjacent to the Alberta Hotel, the store was moved to larger premises across the street in the Dobbin's Block. There he carried on his business until the depths of the depression of the 1930s.

In 1911 he married Josephine Lambden and began building the first of their two residences on the corner



Mrs. Hacker, Margaret, Frances, and H. H. Hacker at their home, 5142-50 Ave., July, 1944.



H. H. Hacker in front of his first store, about 1910. Alberta Hotel at rear.

of 2nd Ave. and 2nd St. W. There the Hackers rejoined in the birth of their two daughters, Margaret (Mrs. George H. Arnett), and Frances (Mrs. J. G. MacGregor) both of Edmonton.

As well as playing an active part in all of early Vegreville's affairs, including thirty-four years as an active member of the Heather Curling Club and some years on the original hockey team, "Hack" was a member of the Vegreville school board to which he also contributed several years' effort as secretary. He was a member of the Vegreville Methodist Church (after 1925, the United Church), and also was prominent in the Masonic Order for over fifty years, in which he rose to be a District Deputy Grand Master.

Mrs. Hacker passed away in Vegreville in 1952 and Mr. Hacker in Edmonton in 1960, and are survived by their daughters and the Arnett children, Barbara Bratton, Medley, Alberta, and Wendy Griswold of Petawawa, Ontario, as well as one great-grandchild, Sean Bratton.

Hall, Thomas by Glenna Ross

Born at Reedchester, Moss, England, February 5, 1855, Thomas Hall went to the United States in 1890. From there he moved to the Whitford district in 1892. In 1894, he visited Seattle and Alaska, then returned to the Whitford district the following year where he remained for over 30 years. During that time he was, for 20 years, secretary of the Manawan School that was built on his farm. He was also a member of the Vegreville Lodge, the Independent Order of Oddfellows.

In 1939 his health failed and he moved to the home of Percy Johnston, son of his old friend, George Johnston, and there he remained until his death in February 1947, on his 92nd birthday.

Hantiuk, John

John Hantiuk was born in Vegreville in 1919 and has lived here since, except for army service years. He attended Vegreville Public and St. Martin's schools and was a talented amateur athlete in his youth, learning his skills on the fields and river near his home in Frenchtown. He played baseball with local teams and with Brush Hill and later with the army team at Dundurn. At age eighteen, John was picked up by the famed Camrose Maroons where he played successfully for two years. After army service, John returned to Vegreville to resume the painting trade learned under his brother, Nick. For a few years he operated the "Corner Grocery" which he built (corner of 52 Ave. and 49 St., now a duplex). An expert painter and decorator, John continued this occupation in the district for several decades, having



The John Hantiuk tribe in 1965: front (l. to r.) — Johnny and Betty, Bonnie, Mark, and Don; back (l. to r.) — twins Margaret and Maureen, and Michael.

a hand in the finishing of many buildings and residences in this area.

John married Betty Brinton in 1946 and they now reside on Hospital Ave. in semi-retirement. John was an ardent curler; the highlight of that pastime being the eight-ender achieved against Armand Mercier, who had taught John all the finer points of the game. John is a long-time member of the local Legion and enjoys working at their Lac Bellevue project. In addition to raising the family and gardening, Betty taught school part-time at various posts in the area; she is also involved in Public Library Board, Hospital's Auxiliary, Historical Society, and St. Martin's CWL.

Family: Bonnie Ann, took B.Ed: now teaching at Two Hills; married Dale Warawa and they live with son Dale Jr. on farm purchased from W. Warawa (SE 22 and north half of 15-52-14).

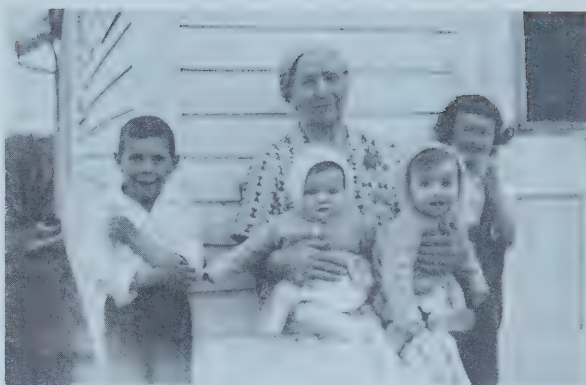
Twins; Margaret, "postie" in Calgary; Maureen, B.Ed., teaching and married to Ken Stanley of Westlock.

Michael, painter, Edmonton; Mark, attending U of A; Donald, attending NAIT.

Hantiuk, Mike

by Betty Hantiuk

As a young lad, Mike Hantiuk left Europe to escape the Austrian army draft. He came with some Romanians to where other Romanians had migrated a few years before in the Ispas-Boian area. In 1908, Mike married Maria Iftody and they farmed for some time, moving to the town of Vegreville in 1917. Mike worked in southern Alberta coal mines and eventually became a town employee, having a hand in laying much of the early town water and sewerage systems. Hantiuks spent most of their town years in a house in "Frenchtown" (formerly the home of pioneers — Benoit Tetreus) where they raised a large family, keeping a huge garden plus a few cows,



Mary (Iftody) Hantiuk and grandchildren Ken Czech, twins Maureen and Margaret Hantiuk and Bonnie Ann Hantiuk at Hantiuk home in Frenchtown, 1952.



Mike Hantiuk, retired, baby-sitting his twin granddaughters, Maureen and Margaret, daughters of John and Betty Hantiuk whose home is in background. About 1954.

pigs, and chickens, as did most of their neighbors in those days. Mrs. Hantiuk also worked for some years in St. Joseph's Hospital. The sons started a painting business and the girls worked at various jobs around town. Mike died in 1963, aged 80; his widow survived until 1975.

Children: Nick, painter, married Mary Semotiuk; he was killed overseas in 1944, serving with Royal Canadian Engineers.

Kay, married John Lemiski who died in 1978; she now lives in Victoria. Her twin, Ann, married John Czech and they live at Fort Saskatchewan where he is employed at the Provincial Jail.

Delmar of Two Hills Nursing Home.

Helen, married Paul Korba (deceased); married Dennis Cassidy (deceased); now living at Bowness.

Beth, married Bill Borgens, retired at Fort Saskatchewan.

John (see article above).

George, retired in Vegreville, died in 1979.

Jean, married Wes Hughston of Northern Hard-ware, Vegreville. Jean served in CWAC in WW II,

took B. Comm. at U of A, worked as accountant in town and taught school here, also raised a family of five; now living in Leduc.

Floyd, worked in Seismic exploration in various parts of Alberta; joined Liquor Control Board in 1955, working at Vegreville, Two Hills, and now Boyle where he is manager. Five of the family served in the forces in WW II, viz., Nick, John, George, Jean, and Floyd.

Harkness, Alfred and Isabella

by Evelyn (Harkness) McKenzie

Born in Ireland in the third and fourth decades of the 1800's were two boys, one a Harkness and one a Pearson. When they were both very young, their parents, apparently caught up in the potato famines, gathered up their families, and, after a horrific six months in sailing boats, arrived to hack out homes in the bush of Upper Canada. Here the two boys grew up, each marrying a Canadian girl of Irish parentage. Resulting from these unions were Alfred Andrew Harkness and Isabella Jane Pearson. When they matured, Alf became a blacksmith and Belle turned to teaching. Then, after 1900 their adventuresome dispositions took them to Banff.

Alf arrived there first, spending a few years as a guide for touring mountaineers and hunters; as a blacksmith on stage coaches which went up into the Cariboo; as a mountain climber who was the first to climb Mt. Stephen at Field without a guide.

Belle, arriving in Banff a few years later, taught in the Banff school. It was during this time that they met and on January 2, 1907, they married.

Banff was becoming a tourist town and cars were

being admitted to the park. The need for a blacksmith began to fade. Alf had a brother Reuben who was a student Baptist minister in Vegreville. He saw the possibilities in the new town for a blacksmith, and on Reuben's advice, Alf moved from Banff and set up his shop there. Many a set of harrows were made, and many a wager won in competitions as to who could shoe the most horses in a day.

After twelve years, a heart problem forced him to change his heavy work, and he moved to a farm south of Vegreville. By now there were five children: Robert, Dorothy, Drew, Evelyn, and Enid. Paul, one of the triplet group had died when a small baby. Susan, the last of the seven births was born in the "hard" winter of 1919-1920. In a short time, Enid and Drew were to go during the dreadful scourge of diphtheria in 1921. As a matter of interest, the doctors for these births were Dr. Field for the three older ones, Dr. R. M. Reid for the triplets, and Dr. A. Couillard for Susan. Citizens of the town put clothes in baskets for the triplets. Although many contributed, I, the remaining triplet, remember only the name Svarich.

Not long into his farming career, Dad became the sheriff's bailiff, a job he held for about twenty-five years. When his pay cheques came, he gave us each a coin according to our age: Robert — 50 cents down to Susan — 5 cents. In these early years our grandmother Pearson sent us barrels of apples from Ontario. What excitement to think that the mixed-in leaves once hung on an apple tree! When we were ill, Dad would bring us home an orange from town. When he went on infrequent trips to Edmonton, he brought us home slick-covered scribblers from the Hudson's Bay Co. store — different from the local product. Mother did all the work other women of those times were doing — boiling towels with home-made lye soap in a copper boiler, keeping the lamps trimmed, sewing, picking berries "north of the river", and taking only the occasional trip back home to Ontario.

These were the days when we all had season tickets to the Chautauqua; when Susan won prizes at the Festivals; when we went to Ben Jameses at Christmas time with the team and sleigh, kept warm by hot rocks, a footwarmer, and perhaps the "pig" filled with hot water; when Robert groomed his horse until it shone.

In the history of every family is the ever-present interest in the teachers. Two outstanding teachers were Miss A. I. Wright and Miss Daphne Garrison, outstanding not only to our family but to the teaching profession. Dorothy warmly remembers Miss Garrison giving her Latin class a box of chocolates as a reward for translating pages of Cicero, and I remem-



Harkness Family. Front row — Dorothy, Susan, Evelyn. Back row — Robert, Mrs. Harkness and Mr. Harkness. Late 1950's.



Harkness Girls: Top to bottom — Evelyn, Dorothy, Susan, 1947.

ber writing my grade 9 examinations in the home of Miss Wright because Susan had the measles.

In 1929 we moved back to town, across from the old Barney Huyke garden. When the family left home, Mother and Dad bought the old Anglican Rectory and there they lived for the remaining years of their lives. Predeceased by their son Robert in 1958, Dad died at the age of 86 in 1962 and Mother at the age of 88 in 1965. In 1979 they are survived by three daughters: Dorothy Kidd, Evelyn McKenzie, Susan Moore, eight grandchildren and twelve great-grandchildren. (See Kidd photo p. 554.)

Harter, Edward and Alma written by Ed's second wife, Lillian Brennan Harter

Ed was born in Odessa, Russia, of German parentage, November 4, 1900. He left when he was eight years old to come to Canada with his mother, two sisters and two brothers. They first came to Calgary, alter living in Bassano, later going to Garden Plain near Coronation.

In July of 1921, Ed married Alma Gienger of



Lily Harter, Shane, Dean and Ross Brennan — grandchildren, 1965.



Ed's new barn going up. Harter boys helping, 1945.

Vegreville. Ed then came to make his home in Vegreville. He bought a quarter of land and spent the next couple of years clearing the land of trees and brush. He later bought a half-section adjoining his first quarter. He lived six miles south and four miles east of Vegreville. Ed lived on this farm for 53 years.

He built a two-roomed house and lived in it until he built a large home in 1940, adding a large barn five years later.

The farmers all helped each other in the early days, and Ed did the threshing in his district for some years.

He also helped build the Emmanuel Evangelical church.

Ed and Alma celebrated their 25th Wedding Anniversary in July 1946. Friends and family joined them at their home.

There were many hard years between 1921 and 1946, but they had the joy of a large family of seven children.

Lawrence and Rose Harter live in Aberdeen, Scotland, where Lawrence is with the Sedco Oil Co. Lawrence has been in the oil business many years. They have five children, three daughters and two sons. Lawrence bought the Harter farm in 1974.

Irvin and Margaret Harter make their home in Bellevue, Washington. They have one daughter and two sons. Irvin has the Thunderbird Motel in Bellevue, Wash.

Alvin Harter, Sherwood Park, is President and



Alma and Edward Harter's 25th Wedding Anniversary, with friends and family, 1946.



Two-room shack and garden. Ed Harter's home, 1925.

owner of Terra Mining. He has one daughter and three sons.

Adella Harter married Fred Mayer of Vegreville. Now retired, they have one daughter and one son and live in Chilliwack, B.C.

Taby Harter married Jack Brennan and they live in Edmonton with their three sons. Taby is manager of Mayfair Shoes. Jack is assistant manager of Sears in Edmonton

Lillian Harter married Metro Gereluk of Vegreville. Metro is a city-fireman. They have three sons and live in Edmonton.

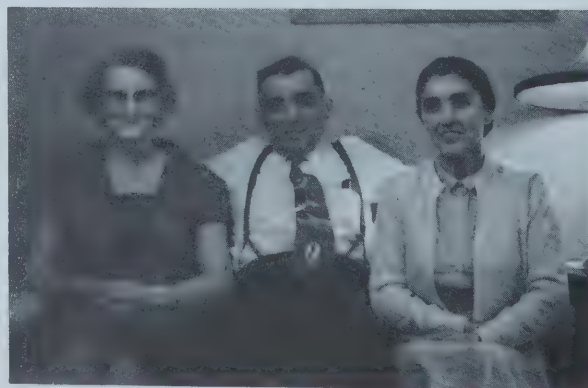
Doreen Harter married Victor Woynarowich of Vegreville. Victor is employed by Ezee-On Mfg. Ltd. of Vegreville. They have one daughter.

All Ed and Alma's children were born in Vegreville.

I am Lillian Brennan Harter, the second wife of Ed Harter. I was born in Nova Scotia, May 1900. I moved with my family west to North Dakota in 1905. We came in 1906 to Big Valley, south of Stettler and we had a cattle ranch there. I was married to Jack Brennan Sr. February 2, 1921; we had one daughter and two sons. My husband was a C.N.R. Brakeman and ran into Vegreville in 1921 and 1922 on the Vegreville mixed. It was part passenger train and part freight. I'm sure all old-timers of Vegreville will remember it. My husband was ill many years from 1925 before he died in the year 1950.

I lived in Edmonton for forty years. I was in the process of selling my home when Ed and I decided to be married. We were married in Edmonton on March 22, 1969. I came to Vegreville and lived on Ed's farm for five and a half years. We bought a house in Vegreville in 1974, and moved into town in September. We were both sorry to have to leave the farm. I make my home here now. My husband Ed was a kind and happy man, and we all miss him very much.

Alma Harter died in June, 1968, and Edward Harter died in February, 1975.



Alma and Ed Harter and Matilda — Ed's sister, 1963.

Hawryluk, Fred and Pearl

by Nick Hawryluk

Most individuals are unaware of or cannot imagine what their parents had to endure or obstacles they had to overcome in order to not only survive, but to establish themselves in a new place and become dependable, worthwhile citizens of their communities.

My parents, Fred and Pearl Hawryluk, were such citizens.

They emigrated to Canada in May, 1900, leaving behind them numerous sisters, brothers, and relatives with whom they were very close. They brought with them only items which they thought might be necessary in making a new life in Canada, such as personal belongings, carpentry tools, seeds and various other items, which they were allowed to take on the boat.

Their decision to leave their village of Yaslivich in Brody, Ukraine, was not a spur-of-the-moment decision, but was discussed very thoroughly with a man in their village, who told them that Canada was the place to go to. He stated that in Canada they would be able to purchase a homestead (160 acres) for only ten dollars, provided they broke (cultivated) forty acres, which would validate their homestead agreement.

Upon reaching their decision to leave their homeland, they sold their possessions for as much as they could get and purchased tickets for themselves, their two children and my mom's brother, who at the time was fifteen years old.

Their journey, by boat, from the Ukraine to Halifax, took one month to complete, as poor weather conditions along with sickness and overall poor conditions aboard ship restricted their progress across the ocean. The Captain was also a hard man to deal with, as one day he caught my mom's brother smoking and demanded that my father pay the full fare for him, for he had to be older than fifteen and should therefore pay adult prices. At that time children under sixteen were allowed to travel at half fare.

The hardships, which were encountered on their journey, although many, were not as significant to my mom and dad as to others, as my parents were accustomed to hardships encountered in their homeland, of which some were directly responsible in helping them reach their decision to emigrate to Canada. The lack of opportunity to acquire wealth, the poor living conditions, the shortage of wood (used for cooking and heating purposes) and the life styles in their homeland were the main reasons for leaving their homeland. Both my parents believed very strongly that their future was in Canada, where

they could work, raise their family and acquire wealth as a result of their efforts.

From Halifax they travelled by train to Winnipeg, where they had to stay overnight. While in Winnipeg, my parents met other Ukrainian people who tried to persuade my parents to settle in Winnipeg. My mom and dad carefully looked over the countryside around Winnipeg and decided that because of the lack of trees and the flatness of the land, they would be better off in Alberta, where there were plenty of trees. This reason was very important to my parents as, where they came from, wood was very scarce and people were freezing most of the time, as they had nothing with which to heat their homes, and my parents did not want to have the same problem in their new homeland.

They then travelled from Winnipeg by train, to what is now Edmonton, where they met a man who had been in Canada a number of years and already owned a homestead in the Beaver Lake district. He showed my dad where to purchase his homestead, which the Land Titles Office described as 24-52-16, and he then loaded my parents' possessions on his wagon and drove them, my two sisters, and my mom's brother to their new homestead.

Upon being dropped off at their place, my parents met our neighbor, who had been living on his homestead for a year and had already built himself a house. Their neighbor invited them to stay at his place until such time that my dad could build some type of shelter. During my parents' stay at our neighbors, there was a heavy rain which lasted nearly a week and



Fred and Pearl Hawryluk, 1942.

one evening as they were eating supper, the whole ceiling collapsed as the rains disintegrated the mud and straw, of which the ceiling was made.

My dad, not wanting to impose upon our neighbor's hospitality too much, immediately started to build some type of shelter for his family. Due to necessity my dad built the first shelter into the side of a hill. It consisted of three walls with a roof which was covered with dirt. My parents also dug up some of the prairie around the shack in order to plant a garden from the seeds they had brought with them from the Ukraine.

My dad, along with his friend, then left home to work on the Railway Sections at MacLeod. They worked there until they had each earned enough money to purchase a horse, wagon, and harness and then they came home so that they could prepare for winter. Preparation consisted of cutting enough firewood to last the complete winter and ensuring that the shack was in good condition (no holes) to withstand the long, harsh winter.

While my dad and his friend had gone to work, my mom, the children and my mom's brother were left behind to take care of the homestead. It was up to my mom's brother to provide the necessary meat to feed the family. He accomplished this by snaring rabbits, catching ducks and killing the occasional deer and along with various eggs from the game birds, vegetables from their garden, and wild berries, they were able to survive that winter. Later my dad purchased a shot-gun which made the hunting process a lot easier.

In the spring my dad returned to work in order to purchase another horse, a cow, and a plow so that he could start clearing his land. He returned home in the early fall so that he could prepare the logs which were needed for their new house. Coal was not available at that time, so my dad also had to chop enough firewood to last the winter.

He started to construct the new house that winter and completed it the following year. My dad also stayed home that spring in order to clear and break enough land to comprise forty acres in order to validate his homestead agreement. This took my dad a few years to complete, as he had only two horses. When the land was cleared, my dad planted some wheat, oats and rye, which produced enough grain for my dad to have some flour made and also keep enough for seed to replant the following year. Previously my dad had to purchase the flour, which came in one hundred pound bags, in Edmonton and haul it home. He had to cut his crops manually using a sickle and scythe.

The rye crop that my dad planted was very important at that time because it was woven together and

used as shingles for the roofs of buildings. Prior to rye, my dad had to go into sloughs and cut the reeds which were used for the roofs.

The new house, when completed, consisted of logs which were cut, trimmed and fitted upon each other to form the walls, and the cracks between the logs were filled with mud and clay mixed together with straw. My parents used their feet to mix this mud and straw together as there was no other way of doing it. The ceiling consisted of a mud and straw mixture also, except that it was made into rolls to first fill the cracks and held up the mud, which was put on like plaster is today. When this mud dried, they applied a whitewash over it so that it looked white. The floor of the house was made of two-inch by ten-inch planks in the two rooms and the porch floor was made of mud and straw, and then plastered with a fine clay to make it smooth. My dad had to purchase only the glass panes and some nails as the rest of the house, including the doors, were made by him. The biggest cost involved in constructing the house was the time and labour spent on it. My parents had a lot of help from their neighbors who always helped one another without any thought of getting paid for their efforts.

The following year my mom's sister and her husband came from the Ukraine and stayed at our place for a year before they were able to find a homestead of their own, which was near the town of Two Hills. He informed my dad that his homestead had enough trees on it to last for the next three generations and that he would never have to worry about freezing as they had in the Ukraine.

By this time my dad had built a table, some benches and some beds, which were made of wood with piles of straw being used as mattresses, and had a wood stove.

After a number of years of farming and working, life became a little easier mainly due to the fact that "Old Vegreville" had started up and supplies could



First home of Fred and Pearl Hawryluk SE 24-52-16W4, 1903.

be purchased without having to travel long distances. Old Vegreville had a post office, a blacksmith shop and a small store.

In 1905 my mom's sister came over from the Ukraine and lived with us until she went to work and then married. Prior to that she nearly froze to death during a snowstorm one evening while returning from Old Vegreville which was about six miles away, and she was saved because our dog heard her hollering and started to bark. My dad went outside to see what the trouble was and heard her hollering. He located her about a quarter of a mile from the house.

During these early years all church services were held in individual homes located in the district as there were no churches. In 1903 the people got together and built a small chapel called a monastery and then attended services at this chapel. My parents had to travel about eight miles to these services.

In 1905 when the railroad went from Edmonton to New Vegreville (which was moved from Old Vegreville to be near the tracks), a new village called Mundare started up. The people of the community then got together, as there were numerous settlers around by this time, and built a larger church. My parents became very actively involved in the various church activities and remained active members as long as they were able to.

As the years passed and things got a lot better, my parents continued to work their land and raise their children. During this period a school was built called "Ryan", which was located four miles from our homestead. The two older children did not have the opportunity to attend this school as they were older and were needed at home. The other nine of us all attended school (to which we had to walk), but we did not all have the opportunity to complete grade eight, which was the highest grade taught. The two youngest children did complete their grade eight. As the years went by, all the children, except one, left home to work on their own or get married.

The depression of 1930 caught my parents unaware, as it did everyone else, and although hard times were not a new thing to my parents, they suddenly found themselves in a "shortage of money" situation as grain prices dropped from \$1.25 per bushel to \$0.18 per bushel. When the depression hit, three of their eleven children were still at home, but two of them got married and left home before the depression ended.

The depression lasted until 1939 when the second World War broke out and by this time my parents were getting older and their son, who was still at home, took over the operations of the farm and looking after his parents.

In 1926 my dad built a new house which had

seven rooms, and in April of 1939, while my dad was attending a funeral at Mundare, our house burned down. My mom and I were very lucky to escape, as we were sleeping in the house at the time. We had no way of stopping the fire and ended up losing all our belongings as the house burned to the ground.

In June, 1939, my dad again built a new house, which consisted of only four rooms, as we could not afford to build as large a house as before the depression. My dad built this house from the one thousand dollars he received from his insurance company, as during this period this money represented a lot of money and it not only covered the cost of constructing a new house, but enabled them to purchase sufficient personal belongings which were needed.

In 1940 my dad became ill as he had a heart condition, and on July 26th, 1945, he passed away. His son, who was still at home, took care of the farm and his mother until she passed away on April 16th, 1953.

Currently, out of the eleven children that my parents raised, there are still six children who are living and all of them reside in Alberta.

The above represents only a brief insight into my parents' life history from the time they decided to come to Canada to their passing away. I can honestly state that although my parents went through many hardships, sorrows, difficulties and happy events, their life on their homestead was a full and satisfying experience as neither of my parents ever stated that they were sorry that they came to Canada.

I would certainly like to write a complete history of not only my parents, but one which includes the numerous events that took place, my brothers and sisters, friends and other circumstances, but as I would need a lot of time and would have to do a lot of research, I feel that this brief resume of my parents' life, above all justifies not only their existence, but ours (the children's) too.

As my brothers, sisters, and I are now all retired, and having sold my parents' homestead (farms), we will forever remember our experiences and most of all our parents, Fred and Pearl Hawryluk.

Our parents, Fred and Pearl Hawryluk, who were born in 1870 and 1876, respectively, having come over to Canada at the ages of 30 and 24, would be proud to see how their children were able to improve their own standard of living, through hard work and the willpower to overcome the many setbacks encountered. Their parents had taught them never to give up, but to continually strive for something better, which all the children always remembered.

Since most of the children left home for various reasons, I will attempt to relate a little history regarding ourselves.



Nick and Olga Hawryluk, 1946.

My oldest sister May, who passed away in 1979, left home when she married Alex Sydor and they purchased a homestead in St. Paul.

My sister Julia, whose first husband passed away in 1918 due to a flu epidemic, later married Metro Fundytus, who farmed south of Mundare. She passed away about 1971.

My sister Ann left home when she married Mike Kuchatoski, who was a miner working at Drumheller. They later purchased a shoe repair shop in Mundare.

My sister Kate, who was a year and a half younger than I, passed away at the age of sixteen from a ruptured appendicitis, which at that time was a very serious and dangerous operation.

My sister Francis married Andy Sayko, who farmed north-east of Vegreville and they are now retired and live in the town of Vegreville.

My sister Sophie married Pete Pruss, who was farming around Ranfurly. They later moved to Vegreville where she passed away in 1962.

My youngest sister Nellie married Paul Fundytus, who farmed one and a half miles from our homestead. They later moved to Edmonton, where she passed away in 1974.

My oldest brother John married Mary Dutka and started farming a mile from our parents' homestead. Although the eldest, he still lives and works on his farm near Vegreville.

My other two brothers, Paul and Peter, who are twins, left home in their early teens and purchased farms west of Vegreville where they resided until they retired. Paul still resides on the farm and my brother Pete now lives in Edmonton, one block from where I live.

By 1930 all of my brothers and sisters had left home and I (Nick), being the youngest, remained at

home to look after our mother and the operation of the farms.

In 1951 I married Olga Zaozimy, who had three children from a previous marriage. My wife and two of our children (Rita and Roy) lived on the farm until 1964. My mother also lived with us until she passed away in 1953. Our oldest daughter, Shirley, did not live on the farm with us and was already working in Edmonton. She later married John Zlotoff, an R.C.M.P., and they now live in Sherwood Park.

The twins, whom I had adopted, remained on the farm with us until they completed their High School (Grade 12) and my wife and I then sent them to College in Edmonton, where they both now live.

Our son, Roy, who married Gloria Sarafinchan in 1967, is an Assessment Auditor for the Workers' Compensation Board and resides in Edmonton.

Our daughter, Rita, who married Ron Richardson, a Sales Representative, also lives in Edmonton.

Both Rita and Roy live not very far from my place.

My wife and I remained on the farm until my wife got sick and we were advised by our doctor to move into town, where we could take it easy.

In 1964 we sold the farms and moved to Vegreville, where we had built ourselves a new house. My wife became very sick and passed away in October, 1966.

I remained in Vegreville where I continued to work until 1969, when I suffered a minor heart attack. My doctor advised me that I would have to quit my present job and obtain some sort of easier work. Since jobs were scarce in Vegreville, I sold my home there in 1970 and moved to Edmonton where I built myself another home. I continued working in Edmonton until I retired completely in 1976.

I now have five grandchildren: Cheryl, Tammie, Mary-Jane, Corrie and Lance.

I am now in my early seventies and have time to reminisce, not only my early childhood years, but all the hard times, sad times, and good times throughout my life, and since I have always had the outlook to take things as they come, whether good or bad, and deal with them to the best of my ability, as my parents had, I can only hope that the values passed on to me by my parents, I in turn have been able to pass on to my children and they in turn will pass on to their children.

These values such as honesty, working hard together, giving your best effort at all times and, above all, maintaining one's family name with dignity and respectability, are values which families (past, present and future) should cherish and uphold as without these qualities a family will not survive.

Hayduk, Peter and Pearl by Anne (Hayduk) Karcha

Pearl married Peter Hayduk in July, 1914. He came to Canada in 1912 from the village of Kalnikow, county of Peremysel, Poland. He had completed his soldier training, earning a high rank. Being the oldest of six boys, he came to Canada for more land, which was a big talk in Europe — 160 acres for \$10.00. He crossed the ocean by ship to Halifax and then went overland by train to Edmonton. He was digging ditches for one dollar and twenty-five cents a day. He could have worked all the time but he was more interested in owning land and being his own boss.

After marriage they bought a farm for sixteen hundred dollars; there were about ten acres cultivated. Even in those days it was cheap, but no one wanted that land as the previous owner experienced much hardship on it. Yet my parents, Peter and Pearl Hayduk, bought this land with the help of grandparents, John and Maria Kolmatycki, as they were settled in 1900 and had a lot more cattle and horses.

Here again they worked very hard from sunrise to sunset.

They raised three children: Anne, John and William. All went to different secondary schools where education helped them in later years.

Peter, my father, served on many different committees and was very interested in world affairs. He always subscribed to Ukrainian newspapers. After we went to school we wanted an English paper. A pedlar came along and mother got a bargain; she gave him three hens and we got the Free Press from Winnipeg in 1925. Now it's 1980 and the Free Press is still coming to the same house where my brother John is living. Then we got the Vegreville Observer and it's still coming to brother John's house.

My father Peter brought his three brothers to Canada: Paul farmed in Camrose and did very well; Mike started on 80 acres, and the couple had six children; and Andrew beat the train to Montreal, got married there and is now a millionaire after all the hardships.

Pearl Hayduk, my mother, was a very kind person and worked very hard. She always helped people that were less fortunate than she was. She shared her big garden with people that didn't have any vegetables, due to some misfortune. Most of the families were



Peter Hayduk 1910.



Pearl Hayduk, 1912.



(L. to r.) — Anne, Bill, John Hayduk, 1935. Violin was \$10.00, mandolin was \$3.00. Took part in many concerts. John Hayduk played in orchestras all his life — banjo and violin.

big — ten or twelve children. My mother fed very many hungry people. Some relatives had no jobs during winter months. They stayed with us all winter. Mother cooked and baked lots of bread to feed us all. I remember one man who was turned away from the hospital because he had no money to pay his bill. He had sore scabs on both his feet and needed care badly. His own relatives would not help. But my mother took him in and soaked his feet in birch water (birch bark was cooked all night in lots of water) twice a day for three months until all the scabs healed. This man always remembered this kindness. But mother never



Mrs. Kolodka, Anna Hayduk, Peter Hayduk, John Umrysh. Sold buffalo fur coats from house to house. Went by sleigh with Peter Hayduk's team of horses, 1938.



Peter and Pearl Hayduk with children Anne and John, 1918.

got a nickel for all the extra work. In those days people had no money.

In the hungry 30's hundreds of men were riding on tops of freight trains, looking for jobs. When they were chased off the train, they walked on farm roads, asking for jobs, and begging for food as they were hungry, dirty, dead-tired, and barely walking. They looked very old, yet some were young men. (No money and no home). My mother fed everybody that came to the door and always mother or father would sit down to talk to these lonely, hungry people. But they didn't give them jobs as there was no money, but we had food.



John Hayduk in training in Camrose military camp, 1940.

These men were called “bums”, but around 1940 they had jobs. Most of them got married. They did wonders — some farmed, some worked on railroads and in shoe-repair shops — whatever they could get. Many prospered because they were so frugal. In 1980 they have big homes and educated children. These children and grandchildren are very good workers on railroads, in cafes, stores, restaurants, as street cleaners, garbage collectors, salesmen, janitors, clerks, volunteer helpers, nurses, school teachers, University professors, lawyers, doctors, M.L.A.’s, M.P.’s and priests, last of whom always gave encouragement and strength to carry on. And it’s just unbelievable what people did on farms with no money to start with.

My parents were very good providers and managers although they had disappointments and sad and heavy days. They became prosperous and contributed much to their family, community and country. Their struggle paid off in many ways.

Pearl died in 1949, from cancer, and Peter died in 1959, from a stroke.

Hayter Family 1907-1979 by Peggy (Hayter) Tetreau

Charles Hayter, born in Birmingham, England in 1884, was married in April, 1907, to Mary Louise Chiddell, who was born in Nursling, England in 1883.

Their honeymoon was a boat trip to Canada, with Charles on one deck and his new wife on another! They arrived in Vegreville on May 23, 1907, tired and dirty after a long slow ride across Canada on a colonists’ train.

About the same time Charles’ brother, John Hayter and his wife and two boys emigrated to New Zealand to take up a new life there.

After Charles and Mary’s first child, Iris Grace, was born in 1908 they decided to put down their roots in Vegreville. Their first home, from day one of course, was made of brick. It was fondly known as “the brick house west of the elevators”. It was the first of many brick buildings in Vegreville built by Charles. It was small at first, but grew as the family grew. Charles was a brickmason by trade and received his apprenticeship with his father in England as a young boy — a trade he pursued all his working life. He also passed along this trade to his two sons in later years. Ralph and Frank were apprentice brick-masons with their father for a number of years.

When their second child, Violet Marjorie, was born in 1910, Mary was very homesick for England and the places she knew as a child. So in 1911 the four of them travelled back for a six-month visit. But once Mary had seen it all again, she decided Canada was



Hayter Family. Left to right: Frank, Beatrice, Peggy, Ralph, Iris, Dad Hayter, Violet, 1965.

where she wanted to live and England wasn’t as wonderful as she had thought. Memories are wonderful until they are broken by reality! They only stayed in England four of the six months. Charles’ youngest brother, Joe Hayter, came with them to Vegreville from England. He helped Charles with his bricklaying until the 1914 war broke out. Joe joined the 49th Battalion Edmonton Regiment and went overseas. He was killed in action and buried in Flanders Field in 1917.

Mary’s brother Charles Chiddell had come to Vegreville and had taken out a homestead near “Old Warwick”. He sent for his fiancée Grace Smith, who had remained in England. They were married in Vegreville but only lived at Warwick for a short time and then moved to Edmonton. Life on a homestead wasn’t for Grace. Lilly Chiddell, a sister of Mary’s, joined them but soon went to Edmonton to work where she met her future husband, Charles Lloyd. In 1912 another sister Annie and her husband William Moody and their four boys from England joined them in Vegreville. After living here for seven years, they moved to Bezanson, Alberta, just east of Grande Prairie.

The Hayter family kept growing: Ralph was born in 1912, Frank in 1914 and the Marguerite (Peggy) in 1919. Mary kept herself busy with her home, garden and family. She gave generously of her time to the Anglican Women’s Auxiliary, often taking her turn as janitor of St. Mary’s Church.

In those early years construction had to shut down at freeze-up (usually in October) and didn’t start until the nice days of the spring. So, Charles, like many others, had to supplement his income during those long cold winter months with any jobs he could find. Over the years he worked in an abattoir, in a grain elevator, looking after and making ice in the skating rink and also in the curling rink and any

other temporary jobs that he could find. Sometimes necessities of life became luxuries!

The Government was giving land to men who would improve it inside of two years. So, about 1917, Charles thought he'd give it a try and took out a homestead near Ashmont. He packed his wife and four children along with a year's supply of flour, sugar, dried fruit and other necessities in a wagon drawn by two horses. He set out to be a farmer, clearing the land with his horses and by hand. However, after the two years he decided farming wasn't for him and moved back to Vegreville to concentrate on bricklaying and plastering. He worked for Charles Gordon and also with Mr. Jennings as well as for himself. Many homes still have standing the chimneys he built. When his sons, Ralph and Frank, were old enough, the three of them formed a sub-contracting firm called C. Hayter and Sons. They did the brickwork, stuccoing and plastering on many buildings and homes in Vegreville. e.g. the first St. Joseph's Hospital, the old brick Public School and also High School, St. Martin's School, the convent, the Post Office, Alberta Hotel, Dobbin's Block, A.G.T. buildings (in the 30s) and many others. Many other towns still contain some of their handiwork, e.g. MacDonald Hotel in Edmonton, Post Office in Grande Prairie, hospitals in Athabasca and Lamont, and the Legal Catholic Church, to name a few.

Sometimes when Charles built a chimney or plastered a house on a farm, he would be paid partly with

home-ground flour or a quarter of beef, or some chickens, eggs, or honey, or some home-made butter, or freshly-baked bread from an outside oven that he had built. No one had freezers at that time so in winter they froze food outside in a barrel or a wooden box built for that purpose.

Most of the bricks they used in their brick-work were made right here in Vegreville between 1907-1915 and they were of very good quality. There were 2 brickyards — one on the banks of the Vermilion River by the "old swimming hole" which was a half-mile south of highway 16, just east of the Bruce road. The other brickyard was by the old dam where the C.N.R. crosses the Vermilion close to where the campground is now. The clay in these 2 areas was perfect for making bricks, but when the war started the building business slowed down and the brick-making became too expensive, putting them out of business.

One of the things we faintly remember as children was the "Chautauqua". This was a huge tent under which was a variety of entertainment — one of these was our first glimpse of a "Punch and Judy Show". The children would stand fascinated and open-mouthed at their antics; and the parents, although not quite so obvious, enjoyed it also.

In 1929, Mary died in the R.M.B. Hospital of complications after the flu. At this time Iris was finishing her nurse's training in the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Edmonton and Violet was taking teacher's training in the Normal School in Camrose. Ralph, Frank and Peggy were still in school. Charles tried to keep his family going by himself for 1½ years. He married Ellen Ashburner Robinson in 1931, who two years later gave him another daughter, Beatrice. Ellen (Nellie) died in 1947.

All the children received their basic education in the Vegreville Public and High Schools. Iris after graduating as a nurse, only worked in the Royal Alexandra Hospital a short time when she came down with a bad bout of pleurisy and was unable to work for 2 years. In 1950 she married a widower, Rupert Carveth, a farmer by Grande Prairie, who had a little girl, Jean. In 1963 they sold their farm and retired to Victoria, B.C. and are enjoying the mild weather there.

Violet graduated from Normal School in Camrose in 1929 and taught at Fairwood School in "Old Warwick" where she met and married Roscoe Woods. She became a farmer's wife also and three boys were born to them — William, Walter and Barrie. At 2 years of age Barrie died of meningitis. In 1946 they sold their farm and moved to Montana, U.S.A. Roscoe passed away in 1959. Vi went back teaching in Inverness. She is now retired, but still



Winter of 1910-11. Charlie and Mary Hayter with Iris and Violet. Flack's house in background.

lives on their family farm in Montana, doing a great deal of volunteer work for her church.

Ralph worked with his father for a number of years until he joined the Royal Mounted Rifles and also the 19th Alberta Dragoons. When the King and Queen of England came to Alberta in 1939, Ralph was chosen as one of the Royal Escorts. The others in the photo were also men well-known around Vegreville. Their commander was Lt. Roy Couch, Lavoy. A few months later Ralph was sent overseas to fight for Canada in World War 2 in the 49th Regiment (later called the Loyal Edmonton Regiment). He was wounded three times while seeing action in Italy, France, Belgium, Holland and Germany in those six years of active combat. Ralph is now retired and with his wife Peggy, the former Margaret Hunter, spends six months at their cottage on Lake Simcoe, Ontario and the other six months in Florida City, Florida. They have 4 sons to carry on the Hayter name, John C., Gordon, Morgan and Alon.

After Frank had worked with his Dad for a number of years, he decided he wanted to try another occupation so became a mechanic in McLeans Garage. Then during the Second World War he worked as a maintenance and repair supervisor of aircraft at the North West Industries in Edmonton. He had married a nurse, Laura Cousineau, and they had 2 boys, Harold and Stanley. At the present Laura and Frank are retired in Calgary.

Marguerite, better known as Peggy, married Alphonse Tetreau also known as Punch. They are the only ones of the family who made their home in Vegreville. Punch had a business for many years and then was a farmer for a few years more. They have 7 children, Mary Louise, Joseph, Georgena, Paul, Gloria, Albertine and Gerard. Punch and Peggy are retired in Vegreville.

Beatrice is a Nursing Aide in the University Hospital in Edmonton and is married to Fred Henson. He was an active fire fighter in Edmonton for many years and now works in the control centre of the fire brigade. They have 5 children, Kimberly, Morgan, Craig, Clifford and Karen.

Charlie Hayter retired in 1954 at the age of 70 and spent a good part of his time travelling after that. He received an Honorary Membership in the Vegreville and District Historical Society on his 90th birthday. He was almost 92 when he died and his family thinks that the world is a better place because of his being here.

Headrick, Wesley and Blanche by Blanche Headrick

Wesley A. Headrick was born in Queens Line, near Ottawa, August 18, 1891, and after graduating



Headrick Family (l. to r.) — Stanley, Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Headrick, Olive, 1967.



Wesley and Blanche Headrick, 1951.

from Belleville College he had the urge to go west. Accepting employment with the CNR, he was private secretary to W.A. Brown, travelling between Winnipeg and Edmonton. After a bout with typhoid fever he was sent to Vegreville CN station to recuperate. Right from the beginning he liked the little town and its fine people, so at the invitation of Chas.

Gordon he went into that man's lumber business, soon becoming top man in Gordon's Lumber Co. which expanded to branch yards at Chipman, St. Paul, and Mundare. After Charles Gordon's death, the business was bought by Imperial Lumber, and Headrick continued as manager, remaining in that office for fifty-five years.

During World War I, Wes went into Active Service with the 61st Battery until Armistice was signed; then he returned to visit Ontario where he met an old neighbor's young daughter, Blanche Buchanan — at that time a secretary in the main Remington office in Ottawa. In 1922 Wes and Blanche were married and they lived the rest of their years together in Vegreville, both becoming active in the life of the community. Wes was an ardent hunter and fisherman; he was a Life Member of the Canadian Legion and belonged to the Chamber of Commerce. Blanche was deeply involved in Presbyterian (later United) church work, especially as treasurer where her business training was appreciated; she was also a member of the Legion Auxiliary and the Hospital Auxiliary; she enjoyed her Bridge, home-making and caring for her family. Daughter Olive married Dr. James Hatter, Chief Biologist for B.C.; they live in Victoria and have three sons there. Son Stanley, a Civil Engineer

in Vancouver, married Lorraine Allore, a local girl; they return to Vegreville occasionally to renew acquaintances and to indulge Stan's passion for duck-hunting.

Wes and Blanche enjoyed a few years of retirement in their home on 50 Avenue in town, until Wes passed away in September, 1976. Thereafter Blanche moved to Vialta Lodge, Viking, where she lived contentedly until her death in January, 1979.

Henderson, Gordon and Marjorie

by Marj Henderson

Gordon was born eight miles north of Vegreville. He took most of his schooling here. In 1944, he joined the Army and spent time here and overseas. Two years after Army discharge, he met and married Marjorie Ruttan. They have two children, Brian and Elaine, and five grandchildren, all of whom are residing in Vegreville.

Gordon has worked for the Alberta Liquor Control Board for 28 years, twelve of those years as manager. Gordon's oldest brother, Alvin, lives in Vancouver and works as a Steward in a Bus Drivers' lounge. His youngest brother, Norman, lives in Lloydminster and works for Alberta Power and has worked for that company for over 30 years.

Henley, Robert and Katherine

by Joe Henley

Robert (Bob) Henley was born in Australia of English parents in 1879. That same year the family returned to England to live. Robert Henley received his academic schooling in the Royal Navy Academy. He served in the Royal Navy until he came to Canada in 1905.

In Canada he was a member of the Royal Northwest Mounted Police at Lloydminster. He later joined the staff of the Hudson's Bay Co. in Edmonton, where, because of his soccer and football ability, he played ball for the Bay and also ran the sporting goods department.

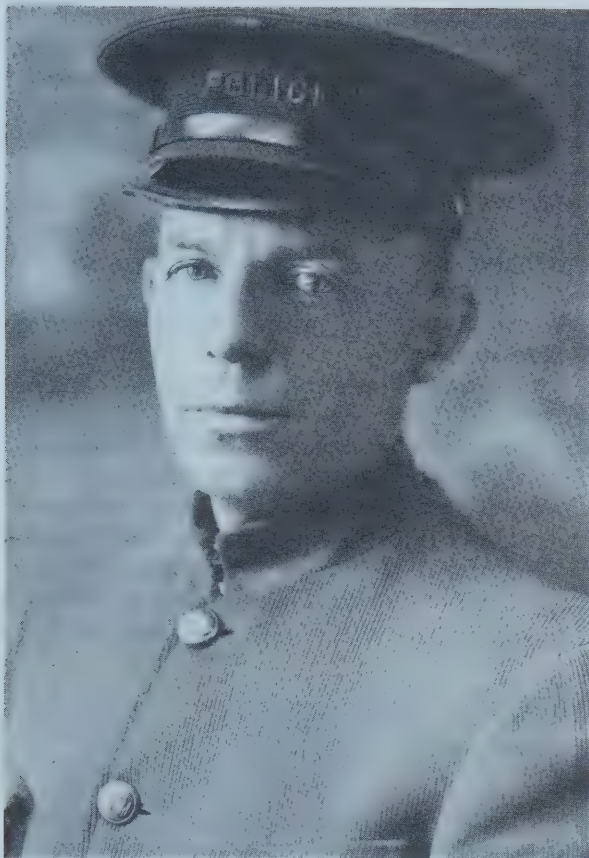
It was in Edmonton that he met Katherine Gallagher, who had just come from Cedar Rapids, Iowa, to join her sister, Mrs. Joseph Maloney of the Ranfurly district. In 1910 Mr. and Mrs. Henley were married in Edmonton. He continued to play ball for the Bay, and after a short time in Vernon, B.C., they returned to Edmonton. In 1924 the family took up residence in Vegreville.

One of the reasons for going to Vegreville was the friendship with Mr. Holden, Mayor of Vegreville at that time. In 1926 Robert Henley helped campaign for Mr. Holden, a Liberal, in the federal election.

Robert Henley served as night policeman for the town of Vegreville with William Rogers, Police



March Storm, 1951. Headrick backyard.



Constable Robert Henley of the Vegreville police, 1930.

Chief, for 13 years. Henleys lived upstairs in the old armories at first. Later, around 1932 they purchased their first house in Vegreville for \$300.00 (still standing at 5501 — 48A St.).

Constable Henley was known on several occasions to have locked up local farmers who had come to town in the dead of winter and were enjoying themselves in the local pub while their horses stood in the cold. No hard feelings occurred, as all knew that he would tend to the horses at the livery barn and release both farmer and horses in the morning at no charge.

Because of the shortage of town funds during the depression, Constable Henley was given many jobs to do besides his duties as policeman, such as town foreman, firetruck driver, water meter reader and night watchman at the town hall.

In reminiscing, the late “Bob” Henley often talked of the time he was foreman on the water and sewer line down 54 A Avenue to the hospital. It must be remembered that it was almost impossible to find a job during the thirties. The men would stand in line for hours waiting for their turn to dig, by hand, in the sewer ditch for 2 or 3 hours per day. They would receive \$1.00 or so for their labour. These men were

so glad to get the work that they would show their gratitude by leaving a chicken, loaf of bread, a jar of fruit or whatever they could spare on the foreman’s doorstep.

Robert Henley served the town until 1938 when at last he reached a life ambition which was to own a farm in this part of Alberta. He bought a farm two miles west of Vegreville. In 1949, because of his strong faith in the community, he opened up a Real Estate office in Vegreville. Mrs. Henley was an active partner and was the first woman real-estate salesman in this area. The same business is now operated by Joseph and Joan Henley.

Mr. and Mrs. R. Henley had four sons: Robert Jr., Anthony, Reginald and Joseph, all of whom were active at one time or another in the community.

Mr. Robert Henley Sr. passed away in 1956 and is survived by Mrs. Katherine Henley, aged 93, and a resident of the Minburn Auxiliary Hospital, his son Joseph Henley and his granddaughter Caroline Henley, all of Vegreville.

Bob Jr. died in 1972, and Reginald in 1978.

Hewer, Jessie James **by Iola Chappell**

Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Hewer of Soda Lake District were my Mother’s parents.

They were married in Derby, England, in 1877 and came to Canada in 1888, bringing with them four of their children, Heppel, Heber, Emma, and my Mother Louise, who was two months old at the time.

They first settled near Leamington, Ontario, and later moved to Strathcona, and then on to Soda Lake District where they farmed for many years. Grandmother had the Switch Board for the Rural Telephone Service in their front room, and it was always very interesting to my sister and me whenever we went visiting.

In the passing years they added five more children to their family, Edgar, Ernest, George, Ethel and Ezra. As they grew up and left home, most of them farmed in the same district for a few years, but gradually drifted away. Some of them to the West Coast, and some to the interior.

Heppel never did come west, that I can remember; he went into the tobacco growing business.

My Grandparents left the farm too, and moved to Vegreville, where Granddad and Uncle Heber were the Public School janitors for a few years.

Then they, too, moved to Kelowna where my grandparents lived to celebrate their Diamond Wedding Anniversary in April, 1937.

They died during the 1940’s leaving several of their own family still living and 30 grandchildren, and 20 great-grandchildren.

Hill, Tom and Elena

Tom Hill, originally Timothy Mohyliuk, was born on April 18, 1884, in the Village of Mamayiwtsi, Province of Bukovyna, Ukraine. In the year 1889, Tom with his parents, emigrated to Canada. Here they met some people that settled earlier, that they knew, and that they lived with for a few months. In the year of 1900, Tom and his father filed on their own homestead southwest of Soda Lake, later known as the Spring Creek District. In a short while they built a log cabin which was their home. They broke a tiny portion of land and planted a small garden. At this time Tom left his parents at home and went to work on a railway extra gang in South Alberta. He sent money home to his parents to purchase some basic farm tools. When laid off work on the railroad, he worked for a cattle rancher named George Lane in High River keeping himself busy. By 1904 he had some money saved and acquired a homestead of his own near his parents. In 1905 he married Elena Basaraba, daughter of Peter and Domka Basaraba, and they started to farm. In the meantime, Tom still went out working to earn money to buy some equipment and a team of horses.

As the years rolled along, Tom and Elena worked hard and prospered in their farming operation. Tom was mechanically minded and after a short course in steam boiler engineering, tutored by Peter Svarich, became one of the first engineers in the district. Later

on he purchased a steam outfit of his own and was first to do custom threshing for the people in the local area. He bought his first car in 1922 and a tractor in 1924. Model of tractor was Sawyer-Massey and it was used for breaking only. In 1925 Tom bought more land surrounding his homestead.

In 1928 he opened up a general store on the farm and the Spring Creek Post Office.

He was a strong believer in good livestock. He bought a registered Percheron stallion to improve the breed of horses in the district for better horsepower to work on the land.

By 1933 he was the owner of 1120 acres of land and decided to raise more livestock. This was the time when Tom purchased some sheep from a rancher at Hanna, Alberta, and expanded his flock to 250 animals. In 1935 he bought some registered female horses to improve his stock. This did not last long as the tractors replaced horsepower in a short while. In 1950 Tom went into Registered Hereford Cattle, an addition to his commercial herd.



Registered horse on Tom Hill Farm. Tom Jr. was 7 years old, 1927.



Tom and Elena Hill, 1930.



Hill's Store and Post Office at Spring Creek — 1928. Model A. Ford, 1930.

Tom and Elena farmed till 1957 and retired on the farm. He was a member of the Alberta Wheat Pool and also United Farmers of Alberta Local. They both belonged to the Ukrainian Greek Orthodox Church at Pruth. His wife, Elena, was active in community activities. She read Ukrainian papers and took part in plays. She also took a course in Home Nursing sponsored by the Red Cross for farm women.

During the years spent on the farm Tom and Elena gave generous support to many Ukrainian organizations such as St. John's Institute in Edmonton and St. Andrew's College in Winnipeg.

Tom and Elena had three daughters and five sons: Mrs. Eustenna Tkachuk (later Mrs. Bereska), Mrs. Mary Tomashevsky (passed away in December, 1973), Mrs. Anne Orlesky of Willingdon, Bill of Camrose, George of Willingdon, Tom of Vegreville, Steve of Toronto, Orest passed away in 1975.

Tom passed away in March, 1961, and Elena passed away December 3, 1966, leaving 17 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

May their memory remain an inspiration for many years to their children, descendants and their countrymen.

Hnydyk, Dr. William

Dr. William Hnydyk was born in Two Hills, Alberta, on December 31, 1950. He attended primary and secondary school in Two Hills and graduated in 1968. He attended the University of Alberta from 1968 to 1974 and graduated with a Bachelor of Medical Science Degree and Doctor's Medicine Degree in 1974. From 1974 to 1975, William interned at the Misericordia Hospital in Edmonton and moved to Vegreville in July, 1975.



Dr. William Hnydyk and wife Betty, 1980, with children — Christopher (7 months) and Tiffany (3 years).

William and his wife, Betty, have two children — Tiffany, aged three years and Christopher, aged seven months. William's parents are Mr. and Mrs. William Hnydyk of Two Hills, Alberta and his grandparents are Fred and Maria Hnydyk of Plain Lake, Alberta, and Harry and Anna Tomyn of Plain Lake, Alberta.

Hoggins, Dick and Ada

by Lorne (Cole) Hoggins

Dick and Ada Hoggins and sons George and Reg came to Canada from Yorkshire, England, in May, 1929, all "green" Englishmen with the unique north-country accent which the boys soon lost but their parents retained to the amusement (and sometimes mystification) of their neighbors. The Hoggins first settled as tenants on forty acres on the north shore of Sickman Lake in a house known as Akasu Lodge, owned by Dr. Arthur. In June of 1930, Dick had an unforgettable encounter with a black bear which had wandered from its natural habitat because of a bush fire; the first shot in the barnyard wounded the bear which then headed for the lake with Dick in hot pursuit, firing twice more before he killed it.

In October, 1935, the Hoggins moved to the Bonisteel farm, southeast of Vegreville about 7 miles where George and Reg continued their Canadian education at Ridgepark School, and Dick and Ada learned the hard way all about Canadian farming in the Depression.

In May, 1940, Dick joined the 49th Edmonton Regiment; after travelling all over Alberta on a recruiting drive, he was sent overseas. In August, 1940, young George joined the Edmonton Fusiliers, transferring later to the Royal Canadian Engineers in the same unit which his brother Reg had joined. Meanwhile, with the men all away, Ada somehow managed to keep the farm going and also to knit many pairs of mitts and socks for servicemen. In June, 1942 George and Reg sailed for England where they had a great reunion with their dad and met other relatives at Grandmother Morris' home in Surrey. Later that year Dick was sent home on a hospital ship because he had injured himself during training. In November, 1942, he was medically discharged from the army and returned to Ada on the farm. They then bought a quarter-section of land four miles north of Lavoy, farming there until 1954, when they moved into Vegreville.

In town Dick worked for a time as bar steward in the Legion club-room where he will long be remembered for his ardent and expert dart-playing. He was also service officer for the Legion, having belonged to that organization since his arrival in Canada. Ada was active in the Legion Auxiliary; they both gar-

dened, and enjoyed several trips back to England. Ada passed away in January, 1974. In retirement Dick passed time by making beautiful rugs. He died in December, 1978.

Hoggins, George and Lorna **by Lorne (Cole) Hoggins**

Lorna, daughter of Roy and Agnes Cole, was raised in the historic old home of her grandfather near the Old Vegreville corner. One of her teachers at Old Vegreville school who boarded with the Cole family remembers Lorna as a shy grade-eight girl with a mischievous smile and a wealth of golden curls. Perhaps this later attracted George Hoggins; anyway, George and Lorna were married in Vegreville after WW II. Soon after, George joined the Royal Canadian Engineers and they moved to Chilliwack, B.C., where son Richard was born, September 22, 1955.

In the winter of 1955 they were transferred to Germany for two years where daughter Heather was born, April 11, 1957. In October of that year, they returned to Vegreville where Lorna and the children stayed with her parents while George went to Petawawa Army Camp, subsequently taking his discharge and returning to this area. In March of 1958 George and Lorna took over the Jersey herd of her father on SW 2-52-15-W4. Two daughters were added to the family: Karen, born April 19, 1958, and Darlene, born June 1, 1959. A new home was built but the log home of pioneer Merton Cole still remains nearby. In October, 1977, George sold the Jersey herd but he and Lorna live on the farm, meaning a continuous residence of eighty years of Coles on that site. George spends his spare time with Elks (past Exalted Ruler) and Legion (1st vice-pres.) while Lorna is a long-time office-worker at Vegreville Composite High School and also treasurer of the Legion Auxiliary. The Hoggins children, Richard and Darlene, are still in Vegreville, Heather is in Calgary, and Karen in Edmonton.

Hohn, Jacob Sr. **Hohn, Jacob Jr.** **by Lillian E. Hohn**

Jacob John Sr., his wife Elizabeth, their sons John, age 19, and Jacob, 18, left Zbora, Austria, in 1902. They left their country because they were unable to buy land for their sons. John and Jacob were almost old enough to serve in the Austrian army. They wanted to get away from Europe and its wars. Accompanying them was Jacob Sr.'s nephew, Charlie Hohn, who was orphaned and raised by his aunt and uncle.

The Hohns heard that land was available for \$10.00 a quarter-section. They packed their trunks, a



Back row (l. to r.) — John Hohn 1883-1957; Jacob Hohn Jr., 1884-1970. Front row (l. to r.) — Jacob Sr. 1850-1936, Elizabeth 1855-1941. 1900.

few carpenter tools and sailed for Canada. They landed in Halifax. Jacob Jr. made friends with many immigrants while aboard ship because he fluently spoke German, Ukrainian, Bulgarian, Jewish, Polish and Czechoslovakian. He was offered a high salary to work for Immigration as an interpreter, but he refused the offer because he was interested in land. He travelled west with his family until they reached Edmonton.

While in Edmonton they rented two rooms. My Grandmother, Elizabeth, kept house while the men looked for and found jobs. Jacob Jr. worked in a store for a man who spoke German. Then he worked for a bricklayer because the wages were higher. Grandfather and Uncle John chopped fire wood, dug ditches, and hauled coal.

Mr. Wagner, a land dealer working for the government, took Grandfather and his two sons by team and wagon to Vegreville. Each of the men bought a quarter-section of land in the Brush Hill district for \$10.00 a quarter. Uncle John's and Grandfather's land bordered. My father's land was one mile west. In 1910 my father bought a quarter-section of C.P.R. land. Charlie Hohn went to Fort Saskatchewan and

worked for a farmer. Several years later he bought land one and a half miles north of Grandfather's farm. He married Matilda Gafka.

Upon their arrival in the Brush Hill District the Hohns stayed with Grandfather's nephew Philip and his wife, Caroline Hohn. They came from Josephsburg, Austria, in 1900. After a short stay with them Grandfather bought two horses and a wagon. They then drove thirty miles and a little east of Two Hills they bought tamarac logs to build a house. The logs were hewn with the broad-axe they had brought from Austria. Then they were fitted together at the ends, log on log until they were high enough for walls. Long poles were cut for the roof and sod was put on the poles. Then a layer of clay was put over the sod to make the house waterproof. Grandmother also helped the men by plastering the inside and outside of the house with clay. Then she white-washed the two rooms. Grandmother said they were thankful to have their own home in their new country.

Grandmother and Grandfather dug their first well using a spade. Water was plentiful but very hard. This was a disappointment. In Austria hard water was unheard of. Grandmother said, "The water tasted terrible, but we got used to it."

Grandfather and his sons walked ten miles to Old Vegreville to buy supplies. Money was scarce; only the necessities were bought at Clements and Son's Store. Another business man they seldom missed was a blacksmith, Shorty Anderson. In 1905 Old Vegreville was moved to its present site because of the new railroad.

My grandparents brought seeds with them from their homeland. Neighbors were generous and gave them potatoes to plant. Grandfather borrowed a walking plough and ploughed enough land for a garden and a few acres of wheat. The wheat was broadcast by hand. The first wheat crop was cut with a scythe and threshed with a flail. The next year a cradle and reaper were used. Then Grandfather bought a shoe-drill to seed and a three-horse binder to cut the grain.

To harrow the fields the men walked behind a harrow. Later, Grandfather bought a harrow-cart, a sulky plough and then a gang-plough. The first man to bring a threshing machine into the district was Mr. Dennis, and then Mr. Bronkin.

Erasmus Wagner's homestead bordered my Grandfather's farm on the east side. Erasmus and his brother Jacob came from Stony Plain with one horse pulling a stone-boat. In the middle of the stone-boat stood an old stove with the rest of their few belongings. Later, Erasmus bought another horse and with Grandfather's two horses they helped each other break land using a four-horse gang-plough.



Pauline and Jacob Hohn with oldest child Lydia, 1917.

Some of the families residing in Brush Hill in 1902 and 1903 were Philip Gafka Sr., Jacob Merkel, Erasmus and Jacob Wagner, Philip Hohn, Jacob (Blacksmith) Hohn, Jacob (Barn) Hohn, the Strohs and Flewells, Jacob (Thick) Hohn, my grandfather, and Jacob (Small) Hohn, sometimes called Jakie Hohn, my father. These nicknames were used on their mail.

My father and Uncle John walked to Fort Saskatchewan and worked for farmers there. The first year Father worked for Mr. Clark. Then both brothers worked for Frank Becker and Mike Mohr. Wages were \$120.00 a year. For the first year my father took a cow as part payment and the rest in cash. He then walked the cow to Brush Hill. Another time, when coming home, he carried a sack of flour on his back as the Fort had the nearest grist-mill.

In the early days land was not fenced. Grandfather's bull broke out of his pen and wandered over to one of the neighbors. The neighbor, being a man of a mean disposition, drove the bull into his barn and gave him a merciless beating. He turned the animal out and it came home. This neighbor was a maker of "moonshine". Such illicit activities were against the law. Consequently, some one reported him and he



Hohn Family Reunion, 1963. (l. to r.) — Alma, August, Harold, Reinhold, Leonard, Adolf, Lillian. Seated — Eslie Paul, Pauline Hohn, Jacob Hohn Jr., Lydia Schwenning.

was arrested. One day, while talking to Jacob Jr., he wondered who was so low as to report him. Jacob Jr. promptly replied, “The Bull. He stood up on the hill and said mooooooooooshine.”

In 1905 Jacob Merkel, Philip Gafka, Jacob Wagner, Uncle John and my father walked 18 miles to Birch Lake to help build the Canadian Northern Railway. Food and a tent were supplied by the company. After working ten hours on their first day, the men retired to their assigned tents. Jakie was the first to undress and when he lifted the bed covers everything seemed to be moving. He yelled, “lice”. Everyone grabbed their clothes and made a hasty retreat. My father and Philip Gafka said, “The beds were so lousy, there were lice by the millions.” The men were glad they had taken their own tent and bedding along. In their long-johns they set up their tent and slept in comfort.

The men cut brush and worked with a scraper pulled by horses or mules. My father and Jacob Merkel said the mules always knew when it was meal time. They would stop and refuse to go any further, so they had to stop and unhitch them. Philip Austin lived near Ranfurly and supplied the hay which was fed to the horses and mules at \$5.00 per load.

In 1906 the same men from Brush Hill worked for the railway company near Vegreville. In 1923 the Canadian Northern Railway changed its name to the Canadian National Railway.

My Grandmother was four feet, eight inches tall. She had a small face, braided her long grey hair and wore it in an oval shaped bun at the back of her head. Every morning and evening she would put on her bonnet before reading a portion of her German bible while she sat in her rocking chair.

Grandmother always wore dark print flared dresses which were ankle length. If it was chilly she would put on a matching cotton jacket and bonnet lined with flannel. When she went to church she wore a dark dress trimmed with a bit of lace around the collar and cuffs. On her feet she always wore leather boots.

Although Grandmother was small she had a big heart. The first thing she asked her grandchildren and travellers was, “Are you hungry?” The St. Paul — Vegreville trail ran through Grandfather’s and Uncle John’s farm. The hill, after which the Brush Hill district was named in 1904, was a landmark for the travellers. The next land mark, 2 miles south, was on Uncle John’s farm. The Indians named this hill

“Frog-Eared Hill” because the hill looked like a frog’s ear. When travellers stopped to water and feed their horses they too were given a meal. Grandmother was an excellent cook. Her kuchen and apple strudel were so good one could never forget them.

In the springtime a beef was butchered. The meat was fried and put into stone crocks and hot tallow was poured over it. This sealed the meat and it kept during the summer months. Some of the meat was canned in jars also. Grandmother canned raspberries and saskatoons, made pickles and sauerkraut, dried peas, beans, and corn. Carrots, turnips and potatoes were stored in the cellar. Almost every Saturday Grandmother and Grandfather went to town with a buggy or sleigh. They bought sugar, flour, tea, coffee, honey, prunes, and apples, raisins, matches, and coal oil for their lamps. Usually Grandmother made butter and traded it for groceries. They dealt at the Bon Ton Department Store owned by the Shaws. One day my grandparents took me shopping with them. Grandfather looked at the clerk’s fingers and said, “Unt ver hust du gefressen (whom have you eaten)?” He must have had visions of blood on her fingers. That was the first time Grandfather had seen red finger nail polish. Grandfather became ill and passed away November 27th, 1936, at the age of 86. Grandmother lived with my parents six years and passed away January 19th, 1942, also at the age of 86. Their grandson Reinhold inherited the farm.

My mother, whose maiden name was Pauline Gross, left Kries Lutzc, Wolinien, Ukraine, when she was twenty years old. She sneaked out of Russia, across the Austrian border. The Russians were preparing for war and did not want their people to leave the country. She arrived in Canada in 1912. She had four brothers in Canada and they thought this was a good country where opportunities were great.

Mother worked in Winnipeg for a doctor, and then came to Edmonton where she met my father, Jacob Hohn Jr. They were married October 15th, 1915. They travelled to Vegreville by train and lived with my grandparents until 1921.

My parents had four children while they lived with my grandparents. Lydia, Reinhold, August, and Harold were all born at home. Grandmother was the mid-wife because hospitals were too expensive.

Dad built a log house on his farm, but no one occupied it. In 1921 Dad and Mother and Pete McNee built a five-room lumber house. It had two large bedrooms upstairs, a large living room, a parlour, and a large kitchen with a pantry. The house was not insulated. On cold days in the winter the children would get up in the morning and dress behind the pot-bellied heater. Water would freeze in the water pail. In 1945 the house was insulated, and some time later



Alma and Adolf Hohn making ice-cream, 1948.

a furnace was installed in the basement. Never again did anything in the house freeze.

From 1921 to 1933 my parents had five more children. Adolf was born at home. Elsie, Lillian, Leonard and Alma were born in the hospital.

The Hohn children helped their parents do chores. We milked cows, separated the milk, weeded the garden, picked mustard, sow-thistle and Canadian thistle in the fields. We picked wild fruit which grew on the banks of the Vermilion River such as white and black choke-cherries, saskatoons, raspberries and black currants. Mother made sauerkraut and canned 500 jars of fruit, vegetables and pickles.

All of the children had to herd our cattle. Usually this was a job for the younger ones because it did not require much work. There were no high graded roads during the twenties and thirties. A lot of slough grass grew along the roadside.

We had a black bull that chased only girls. My brother August dressed up like a woman by putting on Mother’s hat and dress, and took a gun with him when he went to get the cows. When the bull chased him August peppered him with buckshot. This was a sure cure, after which he left us girls alone, apparently having decided that those are dangerous creatures.

During the early thirties my father and brothers built an ice-house. Blocks of ice were cut and hauled from the Vermilion River. They were placed on each other and covered with saw-dust. The ice kept until late fall. Cream was kept on the ice and often stayed sweet for almost a week. Cream sold for \$1.50 a five-gallon can. Dad bought an ice-cream freezer and once a week we kids enjoyed a wonderful treat of home-made ice-cream.

Making butter was a family affair. We churned it twice a week and at one time milked fifteen cows. We

had a large barrel-shaped churn. One could run it by using the handle or foot-pedal. One day while I was churning butter it was very slow in forming, and Mother told me to let it set for awhile. My sister, Elsie, was playing outside and came in wearing a raggedy coat. She began to churn and one of the tatters of her coat caught on the lid and it came open. I can still hear my Mother exclaim "Auch du leeever himmel." Five gallons of cream spilled all over Elsie and the kitchen floor. We mopped, shoveled cream with a dust pan, and mopped some more. The kitchen was worse than a skating rink. After that, everyone who churned butter was first inspected by Mother.

After farming for 51 years my parents sold their farm and retired in Vegreville. My father, Jacob Jr., passed away September 11th, 1970. My mother, Pauline, passed away April 2nd, 1971.

Lydia, the oldest child, married Samuel Schwenning from Port Alberni, B.C., who was a faller in the woods. He worked for McMillan and Bloedell. They had six children. Samuel passed away October 16th, 1961.

Reinhold was a farmer and now works for the Department of Highways. He married Nellie Onyfrechuk and they have one daughter.

For 17 years August worked as a grain buyer for Parish and Heimbecker Ltd. at Mossleigh. He now works for Intercontinental Packers in Red Deer. He married Ruth Anderson of Three Hills and they have two daughters.

Harold of Burnaby, B.C. works in the Astor Hotel in Vancouver, a hotel originally built by Emil Wener of Vegreville. He married Helen Minkensky of Lavoy, and they have two sons.

Adolf was a farmer, then moved to Vegreville and worked in a garage. He is semi-retired.

Elsie married Warren Paul of Port Alberni, B.C. They owned a Social Club and were in the motel business. They are now retired. They have three children.

Lillian lives in Vegreville and is a masseuse.

Leonard is a Supervisor of Engineering Accounting for Alberta Power Ltd. in Edmonton. He married Rosemary Robertson of Chirnside, Scotland. They have one daughter.

Alma lives in Vegreville, is a masseuse and works with her sister Lillian.

Hohn, Philip and Caroline

Philip and Caroline Hohn moved here with the Brush Hill settlers to the farm (NW 10-53-14) now owned by Willis Carter. Philip had to be smuggled out of Austria to escape the military draft. Trying to



Mr. and Mrs. Philip Hohn's 60th wedding anniversary, 1960. Children are (l. to r.) — Pauline Emery, Adella Bayer, Bill Hohn, Helen McCarty, Frieda Killoran, Ruth Wagner. Seated are Mr. and Mrs. Philip Hohn.

get started in farming. Philip worked part-time in Edmonton and once walked the entire distance to Vegreville to check up on his family here. The first house was a muddled shack by the river; later a two-storeyed frame house was built, and despite the wear and tear of a large family and many gatherings in it, the old house still stands today. Located very near the Vermilion River, Hohns often had narrow escapes from floods and were often isolated by high waters. One Easter time during a flood the Hohns could have no holiday company in, so their visitors grouped on the far side of the river and Hohns collected on their side, and they exchanged news across the high waters. The children were: Della Bayer; Pauline, who married Floyd Emery and lived in Warwick for some time; Frieda, who married "Slim" Killoran; John, who died as a youth from a sawmill accident; Lydia who died in infancy; Bill, who farmed with his folks for some time, was a well-known Brush Hill ball-player, married Lil Warren, and now lives in Edmonton; Ruth Wagner; and Helen McCarty who has been involved in banking in Vegreville, Beaverlodge, and Dawson Creek where she still lives after the recent loss of her husband, Art.

Philip Hohn died 1961 at 86 years of age; his widow spent five years at the Auxiliary Hospital and passed away in January, 1973.

Holloway, Ray and Dora

Alfred Ray Holloway was born in Caney, Kansas, U.S.A. October 2nd, 1903. In 1912 his parents, George Wesley Holloway (born Dec., 1866) and Mary Elizabeth (Lutes) (born Jan., 1867), came to

Alberta with seven of their ten children. They proved up a homestead in 1922 in the Pine Knoll district, west of Vilna. In the years 1927-29 Ray worked for his brother Joe, building elevators in Fort Sask., Carmangay, Enchant and Calgary. In Feb., 1930, Ray married Dora Alvia McGowan (born June 26th, 1912) and as newlyweds they moved to Lavoy where they worked for Ben James, looking after thirteen year-old colts. Dora was sure they were 13 years old because they were so mean and ornery! While living in Lavoy, Mrs. Bill Pomeroy told Dora she would give her 2 hens as a gift but she would have to buy the setting eggs. She also received a pup and kitten as livestock. Well! on May 24th that year (1930) along came a big blizzard. When they dug their way out to the shed that housed those two hens (which were late setting that year) there they were, completely buried up to their necks in snow! So they brushed them off, fed them and (do you know?) only 2 of the eggs didn't hatch! and that was the start of the flock of Buff Orpington's that Dora raised and sold for 16 years.

Ray and Dora moved back to Vegreville in Dec. of 1930 and lived in a small house situated where Archie Steele's garage was (now Concord Auto Glass). In Feb., 1931, they moved back to the McGowan farm at Hairy Hill, land location NW 2-55-14-W4. They had to use a hayrack and a wagon to move because there was just no snow! Spot, the cow, walked behind and those 2 hens we've already talked about decided to set early that year and rode all the way on their nest. The Holloways farmed at this location until 1942. During this time they had started their family: Larry Wesley, born Aug., 1931; Laurine, June, 1934; and Joyce, Feb., 1938. Larry died by drowning in the spring of 1934.

These were the start of the dirty thirties and while Ray farmed, Dora would supplement the family income with her chickens, which she would sell for 50¢ that was a 7- or 8-pound bird ready for the oven. She also made and sold butter for 10¢ a pound. They used to buy their horses and machinery from a Mr. Pettis who lived south of the Imperial District and then walk them home to Hairy Hill, which was quite a jaunt! Still, good times were had, by bundling up the family in a wagon load of hay and going visiting or to country dances.

In 1942 the Holloways moved to Vegreville. As there was a ban on the roads, the moving man, Milo Ferguson, arrived at midnight to move them. Dora remembers meeting no police on the way and unloading furniture at 3 a.m. Ray worked for a short time at the Vegreville Creamery which was situated where Alberta Power Ltd. stands today. In 1945 they welcomed a son, Dale, to their family and Ray went back to work for his brother, Joe. This time they were

employed by the Alberta Government in the Public Works Dept., where Ray worked for 20 years, painting water towers (he did the one on the north side of Vegreville) building Gov't. buildings . . . example: the Dist. Agriculturist's office when it was an extension behind the Treasury Branch. Another job he did in Vegreville was to build the small porch on the south side of the courthouse. This was the entry way into the Public Health Unit, with Miss Black in attendance. He and his brother Joe painted the inside dome of the Legislature in Edmonton. This was a special job and when it was finished Ray took his wife and children on a tour, which still remains in their memories.

Laurine, Joyce and Dale all took their schooling in Vegreville. The girls both worked for A.G.T. as telephone operators. In June of 1954 Laurine married Ronald J. Williams of Edmonton. They have four children: Karen (now Mrs. Wes Cornelson), Jacqueline, John and Barbara. Ron works for New Horizons.

Joyce married David Ziegler in January, 1957, and they have 3 children: Dean, Lorna Rae and Sue Ellen. David works for Alberta Power.

Dale married Monica Tratch of Lac La Biche in Nov., 1966. Monica has her Master's Degree in Education and teaches at Jasper Place Comp. High in Edmonton. Dale received his Bachelor of Science Degree with Distinction in 1977 and is at present in his 3rd year of Dentistry at the U. of A.

Dora was active in the community: serving as Pres. and Sec. for the W.I., both in Vegreville and Brush Hill. She was a reporter for the Sun Publishing Co. for several years and a member of the United Church Choir for 9 years. She worked many years at the local fair, receiving and guarding exhibits. She now resides in the Mary A. Finlay Manor in Edmonton and enjoys good health. Ray is a resident at Rose Haven in Camrose. He is in failing health, 76 years old now; up until a few short years ago his memories of early life in Alberta were exceptional.

Horon, Alex and Augusta

Augusta Horon is the youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alex Durie of Lavoy. She was born in 1927 at the R.M.B. Hospital in Vegreville.

She received her education at the Nuttborough School and lived on the family farm, helping with the farm work.

Then in 1948 she married Alex Horon, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Mike Horon of Lavoy.

Alex Horon was born in 1913 and took his education at the Zaporozhe School. Then in March, 1939, he bought a farm in the Lavoy district where they resided until 1974 when they sold the farm and had an

auction sale. At that time they moved to Sherwood Park, Alberta, where they bought a home and still live.

They have two daughters. Angie was born in 1952, and Darlene in 1958. The girls had their schooling to junior high in Lavoy. Angie had her high school in Vegreville. Darlene had her high school in Vegreville and one-and-a-half years in Sherwood Park.

Angie was married in 1972 to Tom Korsan of Edmonton, and they have two children, Claudette and Sean. They are now residing in North Glenn, Colorado, U.S.A. Darlene is living at home and working for the Government in Edmonton, Alberta.

"We are enjoying ourselves and cherish every minute of our lives".

Horon, Harry and Gertrude

Gertrude, daughter of Alex and Alice Durie, was born September 7, 1923, in the village of Lavoy in the residence of Dr. and Mrs. George Arthur.

Her education was taken at the Nuttborough School, which was a country school situated north-east of Lavoy.

On November 7, 1944, she married Harry Horon, son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Mike Horon of Lavoy. They were married in the McDougall Church in Edmonton.

Harry bought their first quarter-section of land in 1939. There were only twenty acres broken at that time. Harry broke the remainder with a McCormick-Deering steel-wheeled tractor and breaking plow as well as with horses and breaking plow.

After Gertrude and Harry were married, they lived in a two-room house for seven years until the fall of 1951 when they built their present house.

They travelled by team and wagon or team and sleigh, depending on the season, until 1945 when they bought their first truck, a Fargo, at an auction sale.

Gertrude and Harry have three daughters. Helen was born October 6, 1949, in the St. Joseph's General Hospital in Vegreville. She was married to Rick Latta on February 17, 1968. They have one son, Bradley, and reside in St. Albert, Alberta.

Dorothy was born May 16, 1951, in the St. Joseph's General Hospital in Vegreville. She married Don McMaster on August 21, 1971. They have two daughters, Donna and Darlene, and live in Edmonton, Alberta.

Josephine was born April 14, 1955, in the St. Joseph's General Hospital in Vegreville and married Len Saruk on May 31, 1975. They have one daughter, Carmen, and reside on an acreage near Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta.

Horton Family by Twig Taylor

Andrew Leslie Horton arrived in Vegreville in April, 1906, to assume control of the Vegreville Observer, which had been in existence for four weeks. He carried on in the business for fifty-two years. He had been trained as a teacher, and often said that he thoroughly enjoyed his days as an "educator". Growing deafness forced him to abandon his teaching career and follow his second interest of writing.

In March, 1907, he married Mabel Mitchell. Five children were born of this union, of whom two now survive — Ted of Edmonton, and Twig of Ponoka. Mabel died in 1912. For a short time, "Grandma" Mitchell, with her daughters Elsie and Jean, looked after the family. Elsie married H. C. Newlands who taught in Vegreville at that time. Jean later married Andrew Moffat of Winnipeg. Then Mr. Horton's sister arrived to take over the household chores. "Aunt Molly" Berdan was a widow and she had with her, her daughter, Hazel, (died September 10, 1979) and son Ross, who still lives in Ontario.

In September 1917 A. L. married Catherine Elizabeth Gould. The Gould family arrived from Kimberley, South Africa, where Mr. Gould had been with a Christian Mission, to buy a farm in the Old Vegreville District. (There were six Goulds, not counting the parents — Jim, who was killed in a farm accident; Will (married Viola Southwill); George and Harry who are unmarried; Charlotte (Mrs. Chis Clements), and Catherine (Kate). Five children were born of this marriage: Mabel (Mrs. W. A. Henderson



Mabel, wife of A. L. Horton (left). About 1910.



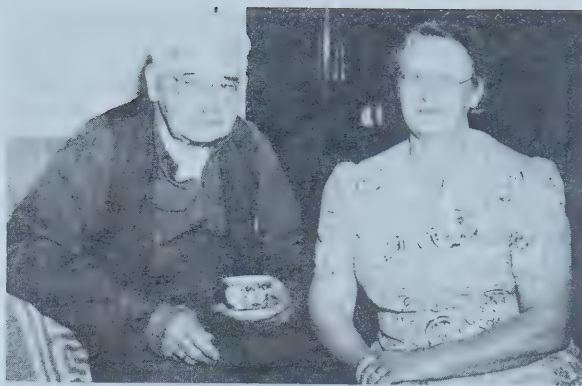
Wilfred (Wuff) Horton, 1920's.



Dad Horton, Ted, Twig and Clarence — just before Clarence was sent East to live, about 1911.

now of Pincher Creek); Allison, who followed a career in the R.C.A.F. and is now more or less retired and living in Sidney, B.C.; James, who was an R.C.A.F. pilot and was killed in a plane accident; Charlotte (Mrs. R. Stuparek of Sherwood Park), and Wilfred, who is still carrying on the family business in Vegreville.

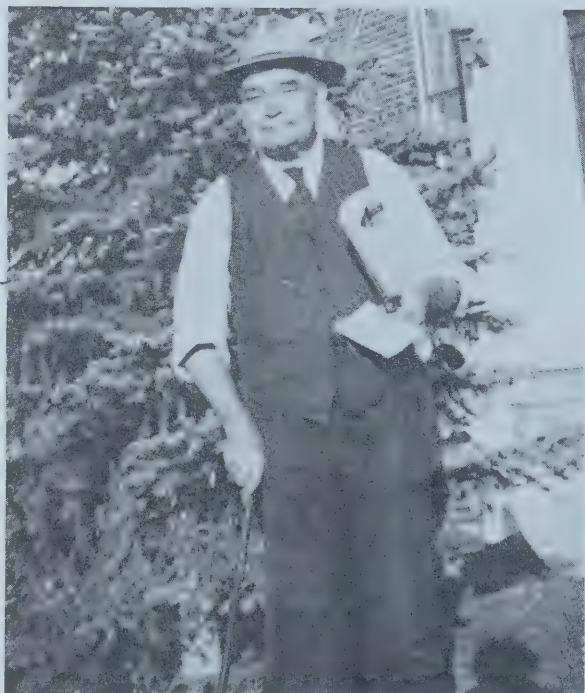
Ted stayed with the newspaper business after



Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Horton, about 1950.



Allie and Jim Horton — about 5 or 6 years old. About 1920.



Mr. A. L. Horton, editor and publisher of Vegreville Observer. Here he is 73 years old. 1948.

serving in the army. He was editor and publisher of the News of the North in Yellowknife for over twenty years. Ill health forced his retirement. He and his wife (Alberta Fortin, who trained as a nurse in the General Hospital in Vegreville) now live in Edmonton. Three of their children survive — Teddy, with the Air Force; Marc of Edmonton who is the city editor for the Edmonton Journal; Amber of Calgary; Leslie Ann was killed in an accident.

Twig married James Taylor and they had five children — Edwin with the Public Utilities in Edmonton; "Spike" (Gordon) married Judy Mast and teaches in Victoria Composite in Edmonton; Allison James, teaching at Queens University in Kingston; Mary Lou, teaching at a college in Montreal; Robin who makes his way as a musician in Edmonton. Twig also spent many years teaching, mostly in Ponoka.

Mabel trained as a nurse. She and Bill have three sons, Jim, Douglas and Bill.

Allison married Jean Jeffrey and they had two daughters. Wendy was killed in an accident and Penny is married and living in North Bay, Ontario.

During his years in Vegreville, Mr. Horton took a



Ted Horton. About 1960.



Dorothy Harkness — Mrs. J. Kidd of Calgary, 1930's. (P. 531.)



The Hortons — Jean (Allie's wife), Clarence (died in Sept. '79), Alberta (Ted's wife), Dad, Mom, Charlotte, Wuff, Buck, Teddy, Gordon "Spike", 1920's.

leading part in many community activities. He was a member of the Vegreville School Board for 32 years, 25 of them as chairman. A Junior High School, opened in 1958, was named after him. He was President of the Alberta Liberal Association; President and patron of the Alberta Curling Association — maintained an interest in curling throughout his life — even to throwing a few rocks after he was eighty years old. He was also President of the Heather Curling Club in Vegreville, and of the Vegreville Baseball Club. For one term he was governor of the Alberta Athletic Association. He was Census Commissioner for the electoral district of Victoria in 1921, and for the electoral district of the Vegreville in 1926. He was a charter member of the Vegreville Elks Lodge and was a Past Exalted Ruler of that organization, as well as having held the post of historian. Mr. Horton was possessed of a very keen sense of humor and used his wit and political acumen in the writing of editorials that brought him both praise and vituperation. He was held in great esteem by his fellow members of the Canadian Newspaper Association. His love of living and living things was amply illustrated in his huge garden and a yard full of children and animals.

Mrs. Horton was of a rather retiring nature but will still be remembered by many for her beautiful garden of which she gave flowers unstintingly to the Church. For many years, she, by herself, kept the United Church artistically decorated for every Sunday service. She also prepared hundreds of wedding bouquets and funeral wreaths before the advent of commercial flower shops. One of her hobbies was needlework and crocheting, exquisitely done and much of it given to Church bazaars. She continued this work until her eyes gave out completely. She was devoted to her family and her church, and spent many years singing in the choir. Just a few weeks before her death in March, 1975, Mrs. Horton was able to share a room with her old friend, Mrs. E. J. Eickmeyer, and she often said that was one of the happiest times of her life.

Publisher A. L. Horton **by Betty Lowe**

The Town Council — the Gov. of Edmonton — the Town School Board — the Federal and the Provincial Governments — the Vegreville Board of Trade — The C.P.R. and the C.N.R. — the town ball team — the Band — Vandalism, etc! etc! All were equal before the judgment seat of the Editor of the Vegreville Observer when A. L. Horton assumed that judgment seat in 1906 and kept it until his death, 52 years later.

He was one of Alberta's most colorful and outstanding editors, a figure to be ranked alongside of Frank Oliver and Bob Edwards, one of the gallant band in whose weekly papers much of the history of Alberta's first century is preserved.

A. L. Horton was 30 years old when he took over the Vegreville Observer, a weekly paper. He was born in Frome, County of Elgin, Ontario. He got his Teacher's Certificate in his twenties and someone outbid him for the only job in Frome, so he took the advice of another editor — advice about the West.

He worked for the Winnipeg Free Press, then to Carberry, Manitoba, teaching school and writing for the local paper. In 1906 he moved to Vegreville, Alberta — that had moved from Old Vegreville to its new location, in the middle of a slough, so old-timers tell us, that was where the train tracks were, and many were bothered with flooded basements until years later when the dry years came and dried up the sloughs and a lot of lakes too.

Editor Horton found time to participate in many of the activities on which he sat in judgment. He was elected to the School Board in his first year and served for 32 years in all. We have a school named in his honor. For over 50 years he reported the meetings of the Town Council and, invariably, in a pattern he established during his first year as Editor —

“Councillor Abbot was the only delinquent at Monday's meeting of the council. The remainder of the councillors and the Mayor were present to add luster to the occasion.” This was a typical opening. On occasion he gave advice:

First — stand up.

Second — say it.

Third — shut up.

Fourth — sit down.

A. L. Horton wrote like this for 52 years, and passed away in 1958.

In 1907 the population of Vegreville was 350.

Hubbard, Daniel Sr. and Tamsey **by Grace (Weetman) Hubbard**

Leaving the state of Kentucky where they had farmed, the Hubbards went to Vinita Indian Territory which later became the State of Oklahoma. Not able to get the required land, they moved to Liberal, Missouri, and dissatisfied there they joined with several other families who were emigrating to Canada, arriving in Edmonton about the turn of the century. They found work around Edmonton until they could locate the land of their choice.

The Hubbard family consisted of Daniel Jr. and his son Charley, brother George and his family, and their parents Daniel Sr. and his wife Tamsey. They homesteaded land near the Post Office of Dinwoodie



Mr. and Mrs. George Hubbard, Pearl, George Jr. and Lena. (Identity of two small children unknown.) Early 1900's.



George Hubbard and George Jr. Gentleman in centre not known. (Inside livery barn — east of Dowhey's Store.) 1910's.

(North West Territories then). Later this became Lavoy, Alberta.

Some of the other families who came to Canada at the same time as the Hubbards were the C. M. Davis family, John Summers family, Stacey Summers family, Noah and Henry Booher family, George Michael's family. Some of these settlers found land in the Lavoy area, others moved on to Mannville, Alberta.

Daniel Hubbard Jr. homesteaded the S.W. 20-52-12; Charley N.W. ¼ 20-52-12 and Tamsey

S.E. 20. This land is still being farmed by the grandson of Daniel Jr., Floyd Hubbard. George Hubbard homesteaded N.E. ¼ 18-52-12. He later sold this and moved to Lavoy where he operated a livery barn for several years. He traded the livery barn and house in Lavoy to Wm. Purdue for land north-west of Mannville.

Daniel Hubbard Sr. passed away in 1903 at the age of 81, his wife Tamsey (Philpot) Hubbard passed away in 1906 at the age of 79.

The Hubbards had many hardships — one being their horses dying off from swamp fever. To supplement their income, Charley trapped during the winter months, also cut, sawed and hauled fire-wood to town. He also freighted goods and supplies from Edmonton, a week's work, receiving a dollar a hundred pounds.

Charley married Dora Geneva Davis in 1907. They had two children, Floyd Edson and Lillian Yvonne. Due to poor health, Charley sold his chattels in the fall of 1918 and moved to Los Angeles, California, where he worked for Goodyear Tire. In



Charley Hubbard and Dora Geneva Davis, wedding, 1907.



Alice, Charley, Mary Jane Hubbard. Alice remained in U.S.A., married Chas. Ratliffe. Mary Jane married Stacey Summers, came to Canada. Early 1900's.

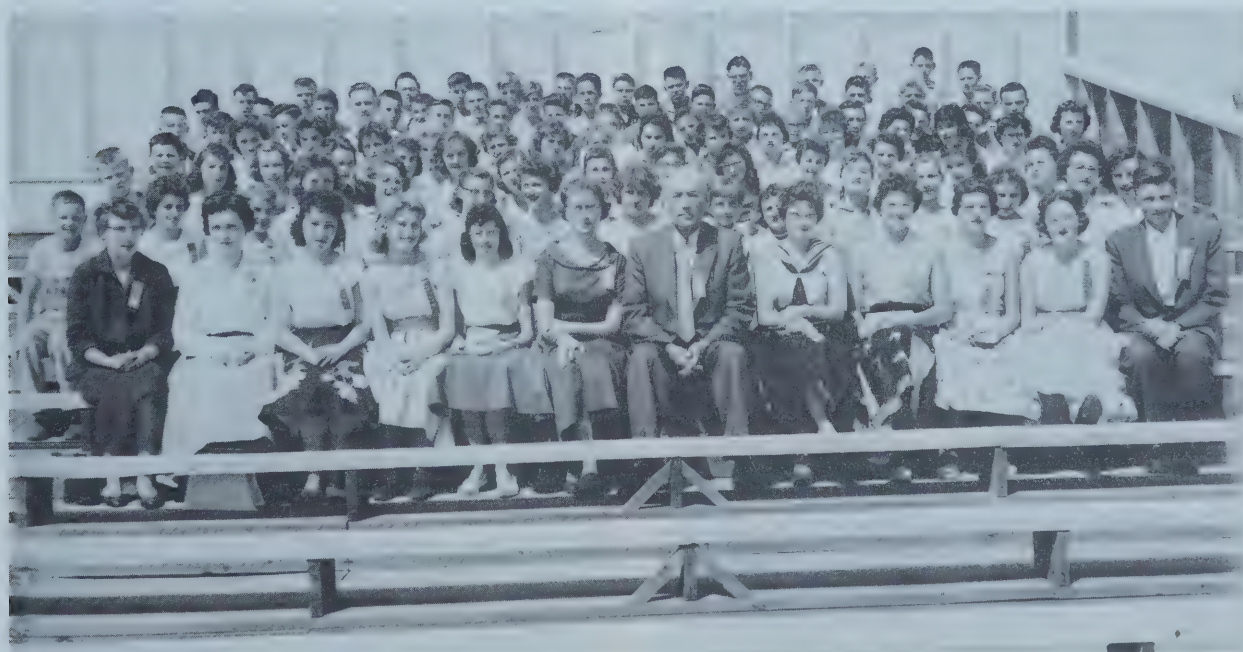
the fall of 1921, Charley and his family returned to the farm and farmed with his father Daniel Jr. who passed away in 1929.

Charley and his son Floyd rented the farm in 1930 and went out digging wells but found this not too profitable as money was in short supply and the farmers were unable to pay.

In 1934, Floyd married Grace Weetman. Floyd and his father continued to farm together until 1953 when Charley retired and moved to Vancouver to spend the winter months with his daughter Yvonne,



Guy Weetman and Charley Hubbard — neighbors. About 1945.



Vegreville Fair — Boys' and Girls' Camp. About 1950. (See p. 30.)

but each spring returned to the farm for three or four months. Charley passed away in 1967 at the age of 86.

Floyd and Grace raised a family of six.

Bernice, the eldest, after completing school, took a business course at McTavish College, worked for a time before marrying Peter Nowicki, and they have two children. Bernice works for the Alberta Health Plan and Peter for the Department of Lands and Forest.

Lawrence, after attending school at Nuttborough, Lavoy, and Vegreville, remained on the farm and married Heather Tizzard in 1967. Lawrence passed away in 1972.

Muriel, after finishing school, worked several years for the Royal Bank in Edmonton, married Wm. Formaniuk and moved to Dawson Creek. They have a family of four.

Louise took teachers' training at the University of Alberta, then taught in Vegreville for a time before she married Albin Lukawiecki, a Holden farmer. They have four girls and a boy and now Louise is back teaching in Holden.

Patricia, after finishing high school, remained at home for a time before she married David Durie, a Lavoy district farmer.

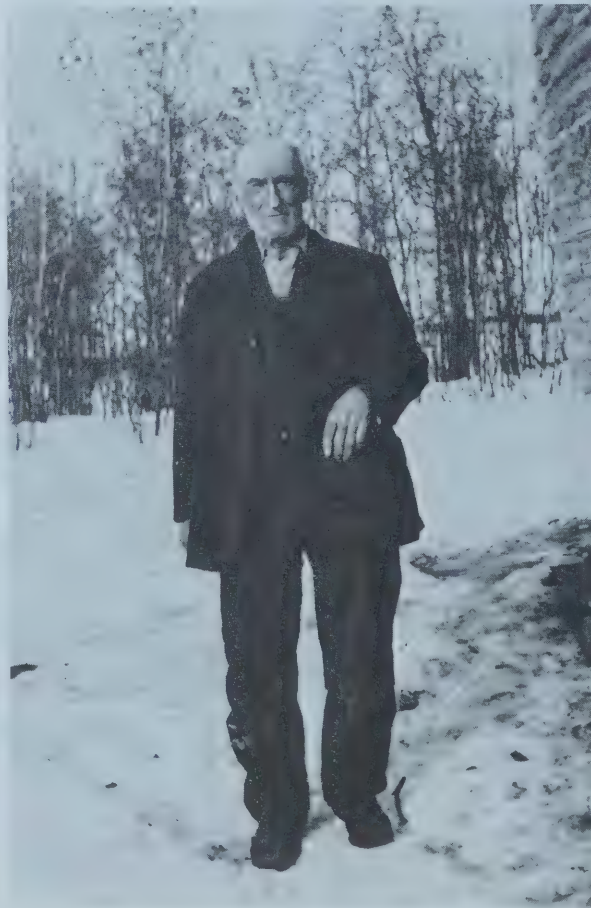
Daniel took his schooling in Lavoy and Vegreville, and then a course in Civil Technology at N.A.I.T. He was hired by the Government and has been living in Red Deer, where he met and married Delphine Hiebert. They have two daughters.

Floyd and Grace also took into their home a nephew, Richard Weetman, who remained with them from early childhood till he completed his high school. He went on to University in Edmonton, then to Veterinary College at Saskatoon, graduating with the first class from that college. He practises in St. Paul where he now lives with his three young sons.

Floyd Hubbard continues to farm although well over pension age. Floyd has served on several boards: Trustee of Nuttborough School, Director and President of Lampburg Unifarm. At one time he played violin or guitar with an orchestra whose other members were Beatrice and Lawrence McAreavy and the late Charles Johnson. The last dance Floyd played at in the depression years, the dancers passed



Chas. Hubbard homestead, 1906.



Daniel Hubbard, 1929.



Floyd and Grace Hubbard Family: (l. to r.) Dick, Pat, Bernice, Lawrence, Muriel, Louise, Dan. Christmas, 1963.

the hat around and the orchestra members received 35¢ each after playing from 9 p.m. to 3 a.m. Floyd also worked for a time for the Veterinarians, blood-testing cattle and vaccinating calves.

When Floyd was a boy his grandfather, Daniel, told him, “Floyd, thar is gold in them thar hills.” As yet we haven’t found the master lode. However, we have had a trickling and we hope whoever takes over the homestead will get their share.

Hughes, Joseph

Joseph Hughes of Maberly, Ontario, first saw the west in 1906 when he ventured this way with John Stonehocker on a harvest excursion. Joseph then decided to settle in this part of Alberta, and the family moved to the Lavoy area in the spring of 1907. Caught in a blizzard en route, they were stalled for ten days on the CN line at Humboldt. There they made the acquaintance of another west-bound family, the Dunhams, who were heading for the farm in the Ridgepark area which Mel Dunham had been proving up for several years.

Joseph brought our one car of settlers’ effects and his family: wife, Mary; sons Dan, Fred, Wilfred, and Oliver; and daughters Bessie and Lottie. For the first year, the Hughes lived on the farm of Lloyd Stonehacker; when their buildings were completed they moved onto their own place, north of Highlow school (W31-52-13). The school was newly-built, of frame construction, and Oliver attended it, often wading through the bog at the foot of the hill because roads were still mostly ungraded trails in those days. One early teacher was Priscilla Briggs who, many years later, married Oliver’s friend, Charlie Brinton. Some pioneering neighbors were: McVeetys, who sold out in 1910 to Callahans; Charlie Ward, the remittance man; Dan Cryder, a bachelor; the Pierce family; Dave Kennedys; Reimers, Wagars, Flacks, and Rhodes.

The Hughes family engaged in mixed farming with marked success. Oldest son, Dan, married a Highlow teacher, Dorothy Whittaker, and moved to his own land (N24-52-14). They had three children: George who is a prominent business man in Edmonton, Mary, and Hilliard who died in infancy.

Wilfred Hughes was killed in World War I.

After his parents died, Oliver took over the family farm. He married Marjorie Wilson and they raised a family of five: Betty Hornby, Avola, B.C.; Frances Mitchell, Smoky Lake; Gordon, married Laura Eberhardt, Edmonton; Donald, who still farms the home site; Winston, Edmonton. About ten years ago, Marg and Oliver retired to Vegreville and shortly thereafter, in 1970, they were involved in a tragic motor accident which took Marjorie’s life and severely injured Oliver, who died in 1974.

Fred Hughes farmed on his own land (W25-52-14); married Dora Selph. His son, Osborne, remains on that farm.

Hughston, Tom

by Evelyn (Hughston) Teare

In 1906, my Dad, Tom Hughston came out from Ontario with a train load of horses for McKenzie King on the first through-train to come to Edmonton. He had come out earlier and worked on the railroad between Red Deer and Edmonton. There were only a few houses in Edmonton so he caught a ride to Vegreville with Ernest Johnston, who had a team and wagon. He was hauling groceries from Edmonton to Vegreville. My Dad went out to Warwick and bought a quarter of land from John Orfino as soon as he got here and then went back to Ontario to get the family.

There were four of us children: Jim was nine years, Dave — seven years, Cora — four and a half years, and Evelyn — two years. We all went to school at the Fairwood School which was one and a half miles from our place. We went to church in the school house. We had several ministers, one being Mr. Kemp who later married Gladys Wilson.

The second year after we came a prairie fire came through and took nearly everything we had, even our house, so we lived in an old log house with a mud floor and thatched roof for a few years until we got enough logs to build another house. My Dad was a veterinarian so he went out among the Ukrainians and doctored their cows and horses, to make some money to live on. We lived on one quarter of land for a few years, then he bought another quarter from Harry Payne, and then later he bought some homestead land from our neighbor, Mr. Mark Bradshaw.

We started out with a team of oxen and a team of small ponies, but Dad soon got better horses and sold the oxen. He did all his farming with horses.

In 1934, Mother passed away so in 1936 Dad moved to Vegreville and sold his land. He came to Oliver, B.C. in 1949. Then we took him back to Vegreville in April and he passed away on June 26 and was buried beside my mother. (3 photos on pages 160, 161.)

Hulett Family

by Marjorie Hulett

Llewellyn A. Hulett was born August 22, 1868, in Oswego county, N.Y., the second child in a family of twelve children. In 1878 he moved with the family to Minnesota where he was educated and grew to manhood. They lived on a small acreage, but he helped his father at times in a hardware store he operated.

Later he and his brothers tried a general store, livestock buying, then real estate. Next he became involved in the banking business with his brother-in-law, George Ross. On December 26, 1900, he married Blanche Ross. At that time he was managing a little bank in Sherman, N. Dak. To this union five children were born — Howard in 1902, Ruth in 1903, Maurice in 1905 (who died at three months), Marjorie in 1906, and Donald in 1909.

In the late nineteenth century Mr. Wm. Ross, Mrs. Hulett's father, and Mr. George Cole, both elderly men with families, trying to get established, decided to see Canada which was being highly praised. Neither of them was of robust health. They went as far north-west by train as possible, landing in



"Graduation Day 1924". Left to right: Hilda Johnson, Beatrice Smithson, Dr. Rush, Ruth Hulett, Ruth Boutillier.



Donald Hulett with child visitor, 1919.



Mrs. Blanche Hulett about 1917.



Howard Hulett, 1902.

Calgary. Here they bought a buggy, a horse, and a meager amount of camping equipment and started north looking for homesteads or low-costing land. From Edmonton they drove east to Lloydminster, looking everywhere as they went. By then they were running short of time. They had seen enough and were getting weary. They wanted to locate in the same area, so after talking it over, Vegreville was where they'd try to get settled down. Mr. Ross bought land for his two sons, George and Art, and sons-in-law, Lew Hulett and Leonard Dodge, a quarter here and half-section a short distance away till he had a parcel for each one. Returning home he only had slips with the description of land location; these he put in a hat and each man drew a slip. Father's was SW $\frac{1}{4}$ -5-52-15 W4.

We were the last of the Ross Clan to move to Canada, June 3rd, 1910. Father brought a box car or two of household effects, a little stock and a bit of machinery. There was not a thing but bare land to come to, fortunately we were able to rent a small house directly across the trail from our land. It was too small and very cold so the following spring we moved into a larger house. It too was cold and a mile further from our land. This sufficed until we could build a house of our own.

By this time Howard and Ruth were both in school which was three miles away so a horse was needed for transportation. In the summer of 1912 we moved into our own house just one and a half miles from school, so from then on we walked.

Those first years were hard on our parents but I was too young to realize the cares, responsibilities and conditions of the times.

We bought our first car, a Model T Ford, from Roy Barkley. We children thought it was wonderful as it was so much faster than the heavy work horses we were forced to use as our only mode of transportation. Donald recalls watching his father driving round to show it off one evening and accidentally ripping through the newly-completed fence put up by neighbour Mert Cole. Of course, Hulett had to spend next day repairing the damaged fence.

One fall, as a birthday treat, little Donald was allowed to get up at four o'clock in the morning to help Louis Knies get the steam up in the huge threshing outfit. Later, about 1917, Brinton brothers threshed for Hulett's with the first gasoline unit in the district.

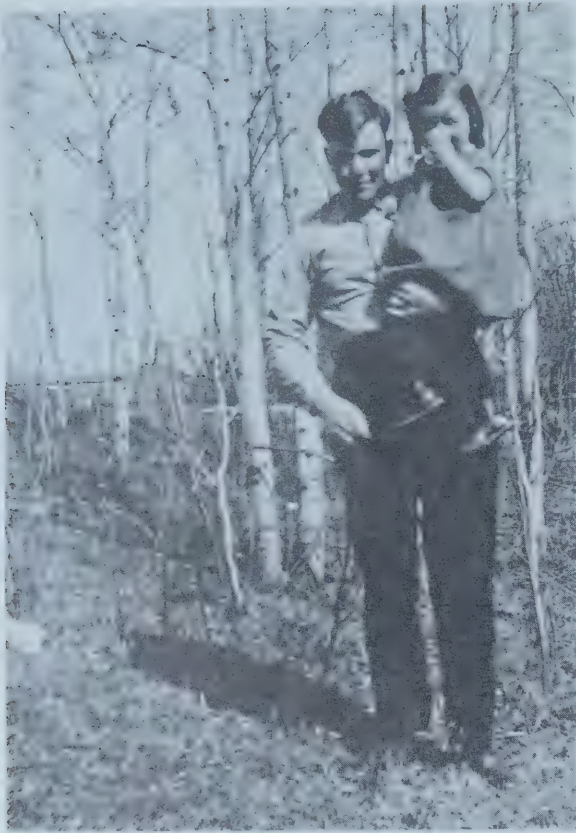
We attended Leachville School which was built on E. W. Leach's farm, hence the name, just a few rods west of Leach's home. The teachers always boarded there because it was so close and Leach's were so kind to them. John Leach was an only child and I believe was past public school age when Leach-



Hulett Family (l. to r.) — Marjorie, Ruth, Mr. Llewellyn Hulett, Howard, Mrs. Blanche Hulett, Donald, 1936.



Mr. and Mrs. L. Hulett, 1936.



Donald Hulett holding Helen Ferguson, 2 years old, 1926. Helen and Ralph Ferguson stayed at Hulett's a few weeks when the Ferguson twins were born.

ville was built. Sometimes if it turned very cold or stormed during the day, Leach's always found room to keep some of the children over night to avoid the trip home. The horses the children drove to school were kept in Leach's barn until a barn was built on the school premises. Also all the drinking water for the school was carried by the older pupils from there.

I can only recall a few of the teachers' names. John Leach taught for a very short while. Winnie Brown, later Mrs. Milton Eckel of Mundare; Miss Clendening; Lena Parney; Mary Dobson; Ned Whitaker; Violet Skorey; Mr. Finlay; Eva Cole; Heathy Stewart, now Mrs. Challenger; and Velma Caddey, now Mrs. Paul Schnell. This list is far from complete. The first school burnt down from an overheated stove pipe and a new one was built, modern for those days but it had no electricity or water, just one classroom, a hall and cloakroom. Later when the children were bussed into town, it was sold and moved onto a farm 7 miles NE, remodeled and used for a home.

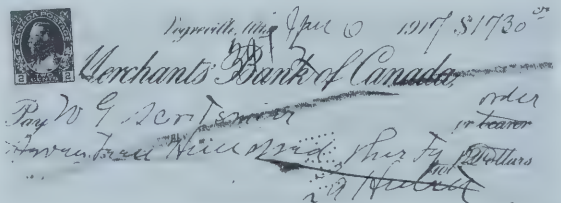
The only church we attended later became the Union, now United Church. Services were conducted by Mr. Finlay who lived elsewhere but made

his headquarters on the Willis Cole farm where he rode horseback. The services were held in Alida Cole's farm home close to Alida hall. Later we came to Vegreville for all of our church affiliations. Mr. Argue, Mr. Lang and Mr. Hughes were a few of the earlier names I recall.

The first doctor was Dr. Rush who later became well-known as a co-partner of Dr. A. E. Archer of Lamont. Dr. Rush traveled many a dreary mile attending the sick and ushering new lives into the world. Mrs. Merton Cole (Sara) was a wonderful helpmate offering her home, knowledge and experience to expectant mothers who had nowhere else to go. Drs. Field, Monkman and Belanger were all medical men who served in Vegreville. Dr. Monkman was killed during World War I while Dr. Field sold his practice to Dr. R. M. Reid in 1912.

We were blessed with a wonderful neighborhood quite closely located. Our grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Ross, lived with their daughter and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Dodge. Mrs. Ross died in 1912 and he in 1922. The spring of 1919 they sold their farm to S. B. Keiffer who retained it until 1946, then sold it to Ed Langpap who still owns it. Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Langpap lived between us so we grew up, played and quarreled together. They, along with Bert Wilkerson, all lived within a half mile of us. The Martin Cassidy family were also very close; they sold their farm to Mike and Elsie Matviw in 1954, then moved into Vegreville. Both are gone now. Other neighbors were Mr. and Mrs. Henry Trenhaile, parents of Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. Atkinson, who both settled in the neighborhood after marriage. Mr. and Mrs. Robt. Jonas, Mr. and Mrs. Willis Cole, Mr. and Mrs. Lemmie Cole, the Brandle family, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Cassidy, the W. G. Scott family, the S. E. Gorsline family, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Cole, Mr. and Mrs. John Leach and his mother, also Mr. and Mrs. John Shaw whose son Glen took over when he married — this neighborhood had very few changes until about 1944. Then it started to change — Joe Cassidy and Henry Trenhaile sold their farms; a little later John Leach's, then some joined the war services and gradually others retired until all this land is now occupied by others who are doing good jobs.

In 1917 father bought more land which we held all



Cheque for 29 cows, 1917.



John and Mary Huzil with sons Terry and Ken (1963).

his wife Barb and three children, lives in Lethbridge, Alberta, and Ken, who, with his wife Dodie and three children, lives in Sherwood Park, Alberta.

All of their adult lives, John and Mary Huzil have been active in community and church affairs. John served nine years on town council, was the organizer of "Canada's Showcase of Ukrainian Culture", and organized and supervised the erection of the Lady of the Highway Shrine for the Knights of Columbus. His activities with choirs — Holy Trinity Church Choir, Community Choir, Nurses' Glee Club — over 35 years, dance bands and other community projects earned him the Alberta Achievement Award in 1976.

Vegreville remains the "home town" for the Andrew Bohaychuks, the Fedewichs, and the John Huzils.

Hyduk, Fred and Marie by Marie Hyduk

In the spring of 1907, my parents, Pearl and John Matwichuk, made the irreversible decision to trade the familiar life style of their Ukrainian village for the dream of 160 acres of almost free land in the wilderness of Canada. They travelled with their three young daughters, Rose (five years), Ann (two and one-half years), and Pearl (a baby of six months), and three other families from the same village. My mother was sick throughout the entire sea voyage, they had the misfortune of losing most of their luggage, they somehow endured the long train trip across Canada, and arrived finally at Chipman, Alberta. My father walked from there to what is now known as Morecambe to pick out his homestead. Wood was such a luxury in the old country that he picked out the most heavily-wooded quarter he could find, fully content that he would never again have to buy wood! That summer they were able to build a cozy log house, well-mudded and with a sod roof. For several

years, my dad spent the summer away from the homestead, working on the railroad. This meant the ultimate purchase of oxen, and the possibility of finally living off the land. I was born in our little log house, as was my only brother, Mickey, and my baby sister, Tilley. Because my brother was younger and an only son, he was really treasured, and out of necessity, my older sisters and myself became Dad's right-hand helpers. I loved our outdoor life. I have many fond recollections of walking barefoot through the towering spruce and tall grasses to get the cattle, and of my many happy encounters with butterflies, prairie chickens and badgers, as I went along. We also had to walk to our post office at Naughten Glen, four miles away, and to my beloved Sherentz School. My fondest memories are of those wonderful brave teachers, Miss McCreary, Ann Cook, and above all, my favorite, Marie Hansen. My parents were very thrifty. My clothes were always bought large, and only fitted when they were worn out. My school scribbles had to be filled totally and tightly before I could get another, and the coal oil lamp could never be used for anything as foolish as studying. In fact, my dream for a higher education was something totally inconceivable for my parents. "Learn to work hard" was their advice. Thus, far too soon, my happy school days were over. My dad grew tired of the isolation and of the exhausting trips to the Mannville flour mill or to Innisfree to sell our grain. One winter, on a trip for supplies, my parents got lost because of a sudden storm and had to seek refuge in a nearby strawpile until morning. Even though there were rumors of a railroad being built through our rugged area, my father found them hard to believe. Thus in 1926 he sold our homestead and we moved to a farm five miles north of Innisfree. Within a few years, the site of Morecambe was established on the very section containing our homestead, and the railroad arrived! In 1928 my dad hired a threshing outfit owned by the Hayduk brothers to do our harvesting, and that was how I met Fred.



1932 Chev. bought in 1941. Marie Hayduk and daughters Dolly and Zennia.



Fred Hayduk's dray team, Tommy and Bud, 1950.

Fred's story was a beginning similar to mine. In 1902, his grandparents and their seven children emigrated to Canada, also from the Ukraine. One of the children was Fred's father Stanley. Stanley and his wife Katie had at that time a one-year-old son, Fred's oldest brother, Frank. Their initial destination was Mundare, and by the fall, they were settled on their homestead, seven miles north and one mile east of Innisfree. Fred, his brothers and sisters, Ann, Mike, George and Mary were born on this homestead. Both Frank and Fred attended nearby Mirosławna School. In 1917 the family moved to a farm slightly west, and there Jean was born. Now the children attended Hillock School. Fred's memories include the depressing setback of a massive prairie fire which destroyed most of their buildings, and the widespread sadness and tragedy of the 1918 flu. Fortunately their own family all survived. Fred's family was very gifted musically. In 1921, Frank gave Fred his first dulcimer, and all through their youth, the brothers played at dances and weddings throughout the district. Fred developed a real love for farming and worked very hard to help his dad. When he was sixteen, Fred spent a year in Alsask, Saskatchewan, working for a farmer, Herschel Moyer. He then spent several happy years working for Harry Boyle on the Horseshoe Ranch near Birch Lake. By 1924 he was foreman there. They worked about one thousand acres, their equipment including seven gang plows, two sets of harrows and two drills. Each of these outfits was powered by six horses.

Fred and I were married that same fall (1928), and spent the winter with Fred's parents. The following spring we settled on our own quarter-section in the Hillock district seven miles north of Ranfurly, well-equipped with a few horses, one milk cow, six chickens, and a cat and dog. It was such a dry summer that we dug one bag of potatoes, and threshed eighty bushels of wheat. Undaunted by our disaster we boarded the windows in our house, packed a few belongings in our Model T, and went to Myrnam to seek our fortunes. Fred worked with his brother

Frank on the dray for \$30 a month, and I was fortunate enough to get a job in a hardware store for \$15 a month. One of my duties was to pump gasoline! I was able to supplement my salary by sewing in the evenings for a local merchant, Mr. Ritch. He had a stock of fabrics that wasn't selling and he talked me into making it all into dresses. By the spring, we had saved enough to pay off our debts and to buy our seed. Thus with high hopes, we went back to our little farm to try our luck again. We had a bumper crop but by then we were in the throes of the great depression, and our grain was worthless. As an indication of the financial situation, Fred would cut and haul a load of wood for \$2.50, I would charge 35¢ for sewing a dress, and we once sold three yearling calves for \$18. Even so I still believe that a farm is the best place to be during a depression. We never felt the hopelessness of the cities and we never suffered the humiliation of relief. I remember families travelling by our farm enroute from the dusty dry farm lands of Saskatchewan to the Peace River country, all their possessions loaded on their wagon, with perhaps a cow tied behind. We were always willing to share our food, however simple it was, with them. Our two daughters Dolly and Zennia were born in 1932 and 1934, respectively. We enjoyed them very much, and I loved sewing for them. I had thirteen hand-smocked dresses ready for Dolly when she was born! Our girls attended Fred's old school, Hillock School.



Fred Hayduk's mother and dad, taken in 1923.

They had the good fortune to have Mrs. Mary Hawryluk (now Mrs. William Kudryk) as their teacher. Hillock School was an elementary school, whereas the high school program was taught in Hillock Hall. Because we lived so close to the hall, I was expected to board many of the teachers. Jack Zubick, Adam Kravetz and Orest Demco all stayed with us. We were also fortunate to have Nick and Ann Hrynyk and their charming daughter Rita stay with us until their teacherage was ready. We became close friends. The Hillock community was active socially, and we had many good neighbors: Graham Barnes, the Matwes, the Helenas, the Franchuks and the Karpiskis. Of course the financial situation slowly improved and times were good again.

Our daughters were very important to us and we wanted them to have the education and the training in music that we had been deprived of. Thus in 1942, we moved to Vegreville. We took our stock with us and rented an acreage on the edge of town that had a three-room house and a small barn. It is precisely the site of the present Veterinary Clinic. Its purchase price of \$1400 was too high for us, and we bought, instead, a similar place north of town from Mrs. Charter for \$750 the following year. There we had splendid neighbors, including the Hendersons, Slorach and Tebbutt families. Every Sunday afternoon we would all gather on a nearby pasture for a softball game. One of Fred's earlier jobs was loading railcars for the Flour Mill. A railcar held 700 sacks, each sack weighed 140 pounds, and he was paid \$12 for each car he loaded. He also unloaded railcars of coal for the Pool Elevator and railcars of lumber for Mr. Thompson at the Alberta Lumber, all for similar wages. Each spring he would plow gardens with his walking plow and two horses for \$2 each. In 1945 Fred bought the dray from Mr. Slorach. As part of the deal, we acquired a beautiful huge dog, Brownny, who was so accustomed to being on the dray that he wouldn't be left behind. We were always proud of our horses, our favorite team being Tommy and Bud. We raised Tommy ourselves, back on our farm in Hillock. This team was so docile and well-trained that when Fred was too busy to bring them home, he would tie their reins to the dray and send them on their way by themselves. It was a common sight to see those well-groomed, massive Belgians ambling along, totally in control, on their way home for supper. Someone once got alarmed to see them without a driver. He tied them up and phoned Fred to tell him that his horses had run away!

One day I was shopping for a pair of shoes at Sheldon's Store, located where the 5¢ to \$1.00 Store is now. It was owned by Joe and Ernie Panar, and they offered me a job clerking for \$8 a week. I was



Fred and Marie Hayduk's wedding, October 27, 1928.

delighted and thus began my thirty-year-long career of clerking in various stores in Vegreville. I recall that a young fellow named Alex Mandryk was working in the grocery department at Sheldon's at that time. The Panar brothers soon built a new store which they kept for three years, and then sold to the Co-op. I worked until the ladies-wear department was discontinued and then moved to Adlers. This was, of course, Adler's old store, with its oiled wooden floor, its low ceiling and its single heat register. I remember Mrs. Adler looking forward to the day when she could have her new store. The young Adler boys were all very nice to work with. I later had the good fortune of working for Marion and Ross Cairns at their Lad and Lass Shop, for three years, and then for my good friend Ann Mandryk at her Avenue Shop, for eight years. No one could ask for better employers than that of these three fine people. Perhaps the greatest advantage of working for so long was the opportunity it gave me for meeting so many wonderful people from the Vegreville district.

Our daughter Dolly started violin lessons with Mrs. Bertha Clements soon after we moved into Vegreville. We were very proud of her ability and her progress. We have nothing but praise for Mrs. Clements. The whole Vegreville district was fortunate to have a person of her excellent qualifications and her high personal and professional standards. She made a tremendous contribution to this community. Under her direction, Dolly won a Toronto Conservatory Silver medal for violin in 1949. Both our daughters also took piano lessons from Mrs. Clements. Dolly later went on to Edmonton to study violin with Mr. Jacob Shean. He was another talented and devoted instructor. Dolly married Alvin Harter in 1953, and they have four children: Garnet, Gregg, Kim and Grant. Dolly still lives in Vegreville. Grant is still at home with her.

Zennia seemed to be more academically oriented. She graduated from the Vegreville High School in 1952. A new high school had just been built (the Peter Svarich School), and her class was in it for their final year. I know she has many fond memories of her school days, and of her many excellent teachers, among them Mr. Strong, Miss L. Collins (now Mrs. Horton), Miss Garrison, Miss Sawka, and Mrs. Rose Madsen. Zennia was particularly impressed with Mrs. Madsen because of this woman's tremendous strength of character and academic ability. Zennia went on to Edmonton to study honors mathematics at the University of Alberta and graduated with a B. Sc. in 1956 and an M. Sc. in 1958. Since then she has been a member of the mathematics department at the University. In 1962 she married Dr. John R. Trollope, also a member of the mathematics department. Since they both have rural backgrounds, they recently felt an urge to return to the land. In 1973, they acquired the old Brinton place from Ann and John Maciborski. Because of their limited time, Fred is in charge of their farm. It is a place he had always admired, and he enjoys working the land, restoring the yard, and collecting farm relics from the past.

I should mention that both my parents and Fred's parents ultimately retired to Vegreville. Fred's mom, our little Baba as we call her, outlived the rest of them. She spent her last few years with us and in the Homestead. She passed away in 1970, during Ukrainian Christmas, at the splendid old age of 93. The day of her funeral was bitterly cold, and I remember thinking the weather was appropriate because it matched her hard life so well. She was very good to all of us.

Even though I am now retired, I find I am as busy as ever. I still love to sew, and above all, I love to spend time with my grandchildren and my family. I

also, finally, have time to do my small share for our Ukrainian Catholic Ladies League.

Hymanyk, Mike and Dora

by John Hymanyk

John Hymanyk was born in Slawa, Alberta, in 1915, fifth child of Dora (Triska) and Mike Hymanyk.

Dora and Mike Hymanyk and one-year-old son William, emigrated to Canada in 1907 from the village of Wolchkiwtsi, Sniatyn, Ukraine, along with Dora's father Alexis Triska and her two brothers William and Peter and her niece Mary Ruryk, daughter of Helen (Triska) Ruryk, who followed later. They bought land in the Slawa district northeast of Myram where they lived for many years and raised their family. In 1910 Mike bought a beautiful team of horses with which he earned extra money to supplement the farm income. He hauled mail from Vermilion to Slawa, a trip about 45 miles which earned him five dollars a trip. Dora and Mike had eight more children besides William. Nick and Andrew did not live past two and four years respectively, leaving William, Peter, Mary, Anne, John, Alex and Olga who all attended Zora school.

Mike Hymanyk passed away in 1954 at the age of 76 years. Dora Hymanyk lived to a ripe old age of 92 years and passed away in Vernon, B.C. in 1974.

Children: 1. William married Mary Walchuk in 1927 and farmed near Derwent.

They had two children: Nicholas, an accountant in Edmonton who is married to Nadine Wozimirsky and they had three sons — William, Dennis and John.

Eugenia, a clerk at Northgate, married to fireman



John and Anne Hymanyk family, 1975. Sitting (l. to r.) — John Hymanyk, Ferne (Hymanyk) Wallbank, Anne Hymanyk. Standing — Elaine and Ronald Kluchka.



Alex and Sophie Hymanyk family, 1977. Adults standing (l. to r.) — Beatrice and Bob Hymanyk, Lillian and Roy Hymanyk, Ron and Pat Hymanyk, Carl and Evelyn Graham, George and Audrey Chernish. Children, middle row (l. to r.) — Donald Hymanyk, Matthew Hymanyk, Kathy Graham, Tammy Graham, Regan Chernish. Front row (l. to r.) — Michael Hymanyk, Alex, David Hymanyk, Sophie, Rhonda Chernish.



Peter and Sophie Hymanyk family, 1975. Sitting: Peter, Brenda, and Sophie. Standing — Elizabeth (Kirby) and Frank Hymanyk.

Edward Moore, has three children — Kerry (Janice Vivian), Rodney and Sharon and one granddaughter, Sherri Lynn. William Hymanyk passed away in 1940 at 33 years of age.

2. Peter married Sophie Olesksy in 1927 and farmed at Slawa until 1956 when they moved to Edmonton. They returned to Myrnam in 1968 to retire. Their only child Frank took over the family farm where he lives with his wife Elizabeth (Kirby) and their three children — Wayne, Dale and Brenda.

Frank works for the Department of Transport in St. Paul as well.

3. Mary and husband, Bill Chomyk, farmed at Musidora and then at St. Brides where they raised their four children. Adeline (Peter Mallon) teaches at St. Paul. They have five children: Brian, Brenda, Sharon, David and Janice.

Carl, operator of a Daysland Hotel, is married and has four children — Debra, Denise, Desiree and Carl Jr.

Clara and husband, Donald Hart, live in Red Deer and operate the Windsor Hotel. They have two children, Allan and Gail.

Kenneth operates the Park Hotel in Grande Prairie.

4. Annie married Bill Lesyk in 1936 and farmed at Slawa until the early 1940's and then at Myrnam until Bill's death in 1975. Their five children attended Slawa and Myrnam schools.

Olga, married to bush pilot Hugh Clark, had two children, David and Katherine. At the age of 38, Hugh was killed in an airplane crash (1970). Olga lives in Vancouver.

Walter, who works at Vancouver airport, is married to Frances Tursk. They have two children — Bradley and Wendy.

Gladys, a registered Nurse from Vegreville's St. Joseph's General Hospital, married Arthur Kemphorne, a lumber businessman in Vancouver. They have two children, William and Marianne.

Patricia works for Imperial Oil, and husband, Mac Shymko, works for A.G.T. in Edmonton.

Susan works for a finance company in Vancouver.

5. John and Anne Gulayets were married in 1943 and farmed the Hymanyk family farm near Slawa for twenty-four years. In 1967 when John's health would not permit him to do the heavy work that was demanded of him on the farm, he and Anne moved to Vegreville. Here he did janitorial work for the school division of the county of Minburn. In 1976 again he was forced to take a lighter job. He worked at the Bank of Commerce until June, 1979. John and Anne have two children.

Ferne, despite a handicap, is a marvellous housewife and mother. She is married to Richard Wallbank and has a son Dean Christopher. They live in Winfield, B.C. where Richard is a heavy-duty mechanic.

Elaine is employed by the Edmonton Sun, while husband Ron Kluchka is a mechanic for the Ford Company. John Hymanyk passed away November 7, 1979, at the age of 64 years, and was buried in the Evergreen Memorial Gardens, Edmonton.

6. Alex married Sophie Tarangul in Vegreville in 1940. They then lived at Bonnyville till the spring of

1943; then they moved to Cork, Alberta, where they continued to farm. In 1953 their house burned down and they lost everything. In 1955 they moved to Edmonton where Alex has been engaged in construction work to the present date. Sophie worked for Hygiene Laundry for 5 years, followed by being secretary to Dr. J. D. Craig from 1960 to 1975. Alex and Sophie have five children who attended Victoria Composite School prior to pursuing their individual careers and marriages.

Robert married to Beatrice Henshaw, is a foreman for the installation crew for Edmonton City Telephones. Their children are Matthew, Donald and Michael.

Roy works for the city of Edmonton fixing computers — a skill he learned following an industrial accident whereby he lost some fingers from both hands. He is married to Lillian Domenko and they have two sons, David and Dean.

Evelyn married Carl Graham in 1964 in Germany, where he was stationed with the Canadian Forces. They lived in Calgary and have two children, Kathy and Tammy.

Audrey is a xerox operator for A.G.T. in Edmonton, while her husband, George Chernish, operates the Speed Zone Body Shop. They have two children, Regan and Rhoda.

Ronald married Patrice Woytkiw in 1968. They have two children, Ryan and Christa, and have lived in Dawson Creek, B.C. for the past nine years.

7. Olga, the youngest of the Hymanyk family, was born in Slawa. She married John Iskiw who served in the Canadian Army from 1939 to 1947. They made their home in Vernon B.C. where they live today. After working for the Post Office for 23 years, John retired in 1975. Olga continues her dietary work at Vernon Hospital. Olga and John took care of Olga's mother, Mrs. Dora Hymanyk, for many years prior to her death at the age of 92 years in 1974.

Iftody, Nicolai

Nicolai Iftody and wife Alexandra left Chernowitz, in Austrian territory, in 1898 to take a homestead in what is now the Willingdon district. He started with two horses, one cow, and ten chickens and built up a substantial farm by the time of his death in 1925. He helped to build Boian Marea church, of which his family remained ardent supporters through the years. His oldest son, John, was a prominent farmer in the area. Daughter Maria married Mike Hantiuk and moved to Vegreville, where she still lives with her sister, Helen Yurko.

Irvine, Robert (Bob) and May by Lorraine (Irvine) Breton

May Irvine was born on Stewart and Mamie Kitto's (her Mother and Dad) homestead. May went to school at Park Grove until she reached High School and then she attended High School in Vegreville. She then attended the newly-opened Business College and used to drive the horse and buggy, and sometimes she stayed at her Uncle Morc's (Kitto) place. Just as she completed Business College, her Father, Stewart Kitto, passed away in June, and May stayed at the farm to help her Mother, Mamie Kitto, carry on the duties.

Later May met Robert Irvine who came to Canada from Scotland. Robert (Bob) was buying grain in the Innisfail, Alberta area. May and Bob were married and they went back to Innisfail to Bob's employment. After some short time, May and Bob came back to Vegreville to look after the Kitto (Stewart and Mamie) farmland.

In the middle 1940's, May's Mother (Mamie Kitto) passed away. At this time May and Bob decided to rent this farm, and moved to Vegreville to enable me to continue school in Vegreville. Bob was working in Vegreville, and was active on the Vegreville Fire Brigade, Masonic Lodge and Eastern Star. May also was active in the Eastern Star and the United Church Women's Club.

In 1958, May and Bob moved to Edmonton where Bob was employed with the Police of Commissioners. They purchased a home on the south side of Edmonton. In 1968 Bob passed away and May remained in the house and was employed as an Accountant at the Edmonton International Airport, until her passing in 1973.

James, Sam by Rita James

Mr. and Mrs. Sam James and their three children, Nora, Harold, and Mabel, moved up from North Dakota in 1917. They settled on the Harry Dean Place, south-east of Vegreville for the winter before moving to their home a half-mile east and one and one-half miles south of the Ridgemark School.

Four more children were born — Hugh, Kathleen, Allan and Charlie. Nora completed her education in Lavoy, Vegreville, and the Camrose Normal School. After teaching a few years, she was married to Carl Lee of Ponoka in 1938, and has lived there since. They have 5 children.

Hugh also attended the Camrose Normal School and taught two or three years before going into the Army. He completed his Bachelor of Education and then went to Hamilton, Ontario, for his Bachelor of

Divinity. He was married in 1948 to Jean Gardiner, and has five children. He was pastor of the Old's Church for several years before working in the Highland's Baptist Church, and First Baptist Church, Edmonton.

Mabel completed her Bachelor of Education and taught around and in Edmonton, until her retirement in 1977.

Kathleen is married to Lyle Baker of Jasper, where she has lived since her marriage. They have three girls.

Charlie has worked for the Canadian National Railway since he came out of the Army. He was married in 1948 and has four children. Both Harold and Allan are farming in the Ridgemark and Victory areas.

During his long life, Mr. James was an ardent gardener. He and Mrs. James moved to Edmonton in 1959. Mr. James came down to the farm to help garden and stood until he was well up in his seventies. He passed away in 1963, in his 86th year.

Mrs. James was very active in the Church and the Farm Women's Club while in the Ridgemark Area. Much of her time was devoted to raising chickens on the farm. She is presently in the Good Samaritan Auxiliary Hospital in Edmonton. Although in her 95th year, she is mentally alert and keenly interested in world affairs, her twenty-four grandchildren, and twenty-one great-grandchildren.

Perhaps Harold's and Allan's children would be better known to the Vegreville people than the other grandchildren. Harold was married to Rita Wallace in 1944. They had four children — Karen, Harlan, Wendall, and Holly, all of whom took their schooling in Vegreville. Karen is presently completing her Master of Divinity at McMaster University in Hamilton, after completing her Bachelor of Arts at the University of Alberta, Bachelor of Social Work in Calgary and working two years out of the Preventative Services in Lacombe.

Harlan completed a special four-year program, obtaining his Bachelor of Arts and is presently working toward his Masters in Honors English. Wendall has completed his Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering and Holly is completing a year of College at Calgary, after which she plans to be married (this fall), and enroll in the Acadia University in Nova Scotia.

Allan married Alma Miller in 1952. They have four children — Terry, Connie, Brenda, and Byron. They all attended the Lavoy School. Terry is presently teaching in the Olds Agricultural School after obtaining his Bachelor of Science, in Agriculture. He is working toward his Master's degree. Connie is a

registered nurse. Brenda is in an Education program at the University of Alberta. Byron is completing his junior high schooling in the Lavoy School.

Mrs. James still loves to hear all about people in the Lavoy and Vegreville areas. She still is extremely interested in hearing all about farming operations and dearly loves coming down to the farm. Her sight is practically gone, but she still passes time by knitting quilt blocks. She can tell many stories about life in the Vegreville area in the early days.

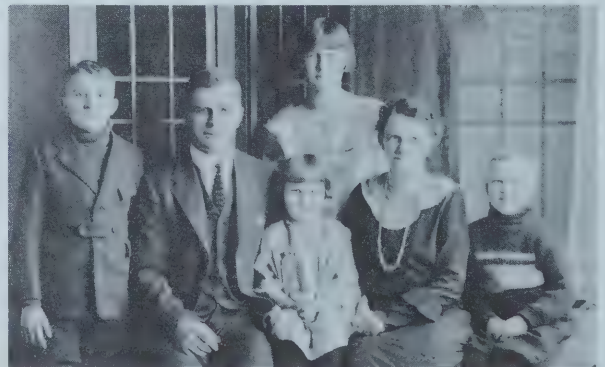
Jeffrey, Archie Sr. and family by children Lena Bell, Stewart, Archie Jr., and Jean

Archie Jeffrey was born at Holland, Manitoba. His grandfather came from Scotland and settled at Vaughn, Ontario, where Dad's father, our grandfather, was born. Our grandfather, when a young man, homesteaded at Holland, Manitoba. In 1881 he returned to Vaughn, Ontario, and married Elizabeth Brownlee. They settled on our grandfather's homestead at Holland and there raised a family of nine — our Dad being born in 1887. All have passed on except a sister, our aunt Elsie, Mrs. Harry Ritz who resides at Calgary.

In 1908 Dad came to Alberta looking for a place to settle and chose Sterling, near Lethbridge. In 1909 he went back to Holland, Manitoba, to marry our Mother, Jennie Stewart. Mother was born in Scotland and came to Canada when she was a small girl.

It was at Sterling that we were all born on a farm near the town. Mother never was in a hospital but was attended by the same mid-wife for all four of us.

Later we moved to Edmonton where two of us completed our education, at least as far as we could then. As city life didn't appeal to Dad, he went looking for land and after much searching and consideration he bought the Barber farm just east of Vegreville in 1928. This he farmed until 1942 when brother Archie took it over and farmed it until 1974.



Mr. and Mrs. A. Jeffrey and family — Stewart and Lena Bell, standing, Jean and Archie, seated, 1925.



Sr. curling champs in Edmonton, 1951. (l. to r.) — Archie Jeffrey, A. L. Horton, Tom Casson, Bert Beacom.

Our family has been well-scattered across Canada. Dad and Mother retired in Victoria in 1953. In 1972 Dad passed on and Mother is in an Extended Care Hospital in Victoria. She will be 94 in October, 1979.

Lena Bell obtained her B. Ed. and taught for many years — fifteen of these at Vegreville. She married Allen Moore of Vegreville in 1935 and homesteaded in the Peace River country. They had two children, Archie, who lives at Penticton and Margaret Gorsline, who lives at Two Hills. Allen passed away in 1976. In 1968 she married John O. Johnson. Lena Bell and Johnny now reside at Summerland, B.C.

Stewart, the second member of the family, obtained his B. Eng. and worked for the General Electric in Montreal until he retired. He married a Montreal girl and they have one daughter, Linda Davis, who resides at Vancouver, B.C. Stewart and Jean retired to Portugal for a few years and are now returning to Canada to make their home at Victoria, B.C.

Archie attended the Vermilion School of Agriculture and continued in Dad's line as the farmer of our group. He left the farm in 1974 and worked for the Co-op for some time. Now he is more or less retired in Vegreville. He married Doris Thompson of Vegreville in 1942 and they have two children — Robert who is now Hardware Manager of the Drumheller Co-op, and Sharon Martel who lives in Edmonton.



Mr. and Mrs. Archie Jeffrey Jr., Robert and Sharon on farm 16-52-14-W4 just east of Vegreville, 1959.

Jean, the youngest, obtained a business education from McDougall High in Edmonton, and worked at Black Motors in town after she graduated. She married Allison Horton of Vegreville in 1942. As Al was in the Forces, they travelled to many places in Canada and even overseas to Germany. They are now



Mr. and Mrs. Archie Jeffrey Sr. and daughters Jean and Lena-Bell and son Archie at Jeffrey's 60th wedding anniversary, Victoria, 1969.

semi-retired at Sidney, B.C. They had two daughters, Penny who resides and teaches at North Bay, Ont., and Wendy who was killed in 1975 in a car accident.

Dad was always very sportsminded. When we were young, Mother said we made many trips with Dad to play baseball. When we were able to toss horseshoes we had to play horseshoes in the evenings with Dad. In later years we played softball in the pasture with the neighbors, so we were brought up very sportsminded. In later years Dad became a very ardent curler and was very fond of golf.

Both Mother and Dad were active in the work of the United Church and took a keen interest in community affairs. Dad served as councillor in his district for at least one term. We were brought up to work and to have fun in our spare time.

Jennings, Albert

Albert (A. E. Bert) Jennings, brick-layer by trade, of Grimsby, Ontario got "western fever" when he and a friend, Dr. Crang, went to Winnipeg on an exploratory trip before the turn of the century. Consequently, in 1900, Bert and his wife, Mary Jane, their infant daughter Bertha, and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Jennings, Sr. with their grown daughter, Florence, all moved west via rail with settlers' effects and ended up in Strathcona — a long way from their fruit-farm in the Niagara Peninsula.

Bert and his father left the women and child in the "city" and drove by team and wagon, taking their basic tools and livestock to their homesteads which they had purchased from Land Titles in Edmonton — section 24-53-14. Each built a log cabin, but unfortunately, since the land stakes could not be located, the little houses went up on the road allowance and adjacent property (section 23) which land was added to their holdings later.

Early in 1901 the women were moved out to the homestead; the trip was started via sleigh but due to an unusual thaw, ended up by wagon. Bert shortly returned to mushrooming Edmonton-Strathcona where he plied his brick-laying trade, making money to set up his farm and to support his family (second daughter, Winnie, was born in Scona).

Tragedy struck when Mr. Jennings Sr. died suddenly at 52 years of age. Although there was no means of communication in those early days, word of this passed quickly about and the nearest neighbors, Woods of Fairwood, about eight miles north-east, were there in short order and other settlers soon drove in to offer help. Since there was no cemetery in the area, Mr. Jennings was buried on the farm and later reinterred in Riverside cemetery, Vegreville.

Bert continued to work part-time in the city, leaving the farming to his wife and sister and a hired

man, Clare Tillapaugh. The nearest store was at (Old) Vegreville, about 12 miles south-west; post-office also there, both operated by Joseph Poulin. As Mr. Poulin had little English and Mrs. Jennings had less French, there was a problem of communication. With non-French customers, Mr. Poulin used to spread the mail before them, trusting them to pick their own letters.

Prairie fires were dreaded by everyone; one year the Jennings lost all their hay after Bert and Florence had finished the tough job of stacking it all.

Neighbors were helpful: a young lad rode in to Jennings one day and in broken English told them that two cows had strayed to their place and that his mother had milked them to keep them from spoiling; Jennings were most happy with the care given to their lost cows by Andrew Svarich and his mother.

In the summer of 1904, Mrs. Bert Jennings decided to go to the city to visit her working husband and with her part-time hired-girl, a neighbor, Rosie Semenchuk, at the reins, started the long buggy trip west, going by way of Star because the Beaverhill flats were flooded. They made the 100-mile trip alright but their horse died in the city and had to be replaced. Bert chose a sturdy pinto, a former delivery-horse, and that animal was used for many years to drive the family to town and the children to school, his only fault being that he stopped at every gateway, as a well-trained delivery-horse should.

More people were moving in to the district, including the Ashleys (Mrs. Ashley was Mrs. Jennings's sister) and Camerons, so a school was started ca. 1905 — Park Grove school No. 1270 (still standing, although remodelled and now used as a community center). Bert Jennings was first secretary-treasurer and he continued in this capacity for many years. First teacher was a Miss Inglis from the Maritimes. Despite the cold and 1-mile trip to school, Bertha Jennings got a prize in 2nd grade for perfect attendance.



Mr. and Mrs. Albert Jennings and Bill. About 1920.

Mrs. Jennings, Sr. had returned East after the death of her husband but she came back West to retire in a home built by her son on 51 Ave., Vegreville which is still standing.

In this home the Jennings children — Bertha, Winnie, John (Buster) and Josephine (Jo) — stayed while taking high school. Mrs. Jennings, Sr. eventually became crippled and thereafter made her way around her home in a home-made wheel-chair converted from a leather armchair which Bert had won in a raffle held by St. Martin's parish.

Bert Jennings' place was used for church services in the early days; Mr. Finlay was a pioneer minister. Doctors Rush and Field served the area, augmented by practical nurses, as when Mrs. Cameron assisted in saving young Buster Jennings from a near fatal bout of infant cholera. When rural mail-service was established one of the early mailmen (Dan Trump or Mr. Emery) used to convulse the Jennings' children by his pronunciation of "His Magistrate's" Mail.

After returning for good to his own farm, Bert Jennings continued his trade by helping in the construction of numerous buildings in the Vegreville area: the original brick General Hospital, convent, St. Martin's school (still standing), banks, old public school, former Armories, etc.; Wm. Scritsmier was general contractor for much of this work. Bert also built a brick home for his own family in 1907; this stood for nearly fifty years (torn down to make way for Art Payne home; Mrs. Art Payne present owner of Jennings' farm).

After a good and useful life, Bert Jennings died in 1939; his widow passed away in 1941. Florence Jennings married Harry Sacker, a local policeman, and they left the district; are now deceased. Bertha Jennings attended Camrose Normal School with her chum, Irene Kennedy; her first school was at Whitford where she met such fine people as the Bolans and the Johnsons. When the flu of 1918 closed that school, she returned home and later taught at Ryan, Park Grove, and in Vegreville, Grades I and II. In 1922 she married Harold Kennedy. and they began farming at the S.E. quarter of Section 22-52-14, where they lived until W.W. II when Harold re-entered military service. Bertha meanwhile was drafted into teaching at Ridge Park school, No. 3116, in 1929; this "temporary" job so satisfied the ratepayers and her pupils by whom she was universally beloved, that Bertha was pressed to stay on at the great wage of \$900 per annum for six more years. Her pint-sized figure was often dominated by her huge Grade IX students' height, but her winning personality won the allegiance of all, big and small. Christmas concerts in Ridge Park school drew crowds from surrounding areas; wee Bertha at the

piano pounding out "Colonel Bogey" while her pupils marched precisely onto the stage (planks, courtesy of local lumber-yard) signalled the beginning of an almost professional entertainment.

Winnie, second daughter of Bert Jennings, married Dr. MacKenzie and lives in Minneapolis; Jo married Ted Hughes and they lived in St. Paul, Alberta, until retirement to Sidney, B.C. where Bertha Kennedy joined them.

Buster Jennings married Helen Shaw; they farmed at Park Grove until their retirement to the present home at 5120-51 Ave. where Buster resided with his sister, Bertha, both having lost their spouses. Buster raised a family of three: Allan, in Edmonton; Pat, in Grande Prairie, and Joyce, now Mrs. Willie Hantiuk, of Vegreville. Buster died in 1974.

Jennings, Bert and Family by Marge Shaw

Bert Jennings with his wife Mary Jane, his young daughter Bertha, his father and mother and his sister Florence moved to Alberta from Ontario in 1900.

The family lived in Strathcona for a year while Mr. Jennings and his father built log cabins on their homesteads twelve miles north of Old Vegreville.

Winnifred was born in Edmonton before the family moved to the homestead in 1901.

Mr. Jennings Senior only lived for a year after moving to the homestead and was buried on the farm.

Mr. Jennings was a bricklayer by trade and during the winters he went back to Edmonton where he built several of the public buildings. Among those still used is the McKay Avenue School built in 1903.

Mrs. Jennings found the long winters lonely, so one spring she left Bertha, Winnifred and John with her sister Mrs. Ashley while she and Rosie Semenchuk drove to Edmonton in a buggy by way of Star and Fort Saskatchewan. While in Edmonton their horse died and they came home with a new horse.

Bertha remembers driving across the prairie when the grass was so high that the box of the wagon left a flattened trail in the grass. You can imagine fire sweeping through such grass. Often the sky would glow at night with the reflection of fires. The Jennings children could only be lulled to sleep when they were assured that the fire was miles away.

Every homestead had a fire-guard ploughed around the home site. The guard would be from fifteen to twenty feet wide and always kept ploughed.

In the summer of 1902 the cows wandered away from the homestead and were lost. Except for the odd homestead the countryside was one huge pasture dotted with groves of poplar and willow and deep in prairie grass. Three days after the loss of the cows

young Andy Svarich rode into the yard. He was seven or eight years old at the time, and a new Canadian. He said, "Your cows my home, six miles, mama milk." Mrs. Svarich had relieved the poor cows by milking them and then sent her son out to look for the owners.

Dr. Rush, the pioneer doctor in Old Vegreville, was driving across the prairie in the dead of winter when he became lost. He was very cold when he sighted a light, which led him to the Jennings home. From that day until the country became more settled Mrs. Jennings always left a lamp burning in their window at night.

There were five children born to Mr. and Mrs. Jennings: Bertha, Winnifred, John, Sadie and Josephine.

Bertha took up teaching as a profession and later married Harold Kennedy. Winnifred became a stenographer and for several years was admitting officer at the Royal Alex Hospital in Edmonton. John followed in his father's footsteps and carried on farming; he married Helen Shaw. Sadie died when she was eleven years old. Josephine became a nurse. She served overseas as a nurse and when she came home from the war she married Edward (Ted) Hughes, son of Colonel Hughes who for a time farmed south of Vegreville. Ted and Jo lived in Edmonton and St. Paul before Ted retired when they moved to Sidney, B.C.

Bert Jennings built several of the brick buildings in Vegreville. Among those still in use are the Armories, the Separate School, the Convent and the old Catholic Hospital. He built a brick cottage on first street west for his mother and sister Florence. The Jennings children all stayed with their Grandmother while attending High School in Vegreville.

Johnston, George

by Glenna Ross

My maiden name was Glenna Richardson, daughter of James Richardson of Hairy Hill and Vegreville. I am a daughter-in-law of the Johnston family, married Glen Johnston in 1925; he was deceased in 1972.

I am now Glenna Ross having married Jesse Ross of Courtenay, B.C. in 1978.

George Johnston, known to all of us as "Grandpa Johnston", was born at Winchester, Ontario, in 1865, where he lived until his early 20's when he went to Pendleton, Oregon, to farm. After a few years he went back to Ontario to marry Alice Collins of Grantley, Ontario, and they returned to Pendleton to continue farming. George and Alice Johnston farmed in Oregon another four years. The last three crops of wheat were a complete loss, being burned up with the hot winds just before harvest time. In the



Mr. Thomas Hall was a very close friend of the Johnston family. He lived with them the first winter when they were in Whitford, 1894, and settled on a farm just a couple of miles from them and as he remained bachelor all his life, the Johnston family were always there to give him a helping hand. It was with Percy Johnston that he spent his last years.



Sample of pioneers in Whitford district, 1894. Grandpa George Johnston, Silas Richardson, Thomas Hall, Mr. Littlechilds, Patrick Bolan.

summer of 1894, a number of the families decided they had to try somewhere else, so made plans to move to the Whitford district in Alberta. George Johnston sent his wife Alice and two small children, Pearl Anna (seventeen months) and William James (two months) by train with some of the other families. He and some of the neighbour men came through by wagon, bringing a number of horses plus

some farming implements and household goods. He was three months and four days making the trip, arriving in October. Coming through the mountains they lost many horses. At times the scent of bears would frighten the horses so that they would panic and crowd other horses off the road and over the bank. At railroad tunnels they would have to send a man ahead through the tunnel to flag the train to stop so they could get the wagons and horses through.

The first winter they lived in a small log house with a sod roof, about a mile-and-a-half from where they later homesteaded and built their home and barn, etc. Ranching was the way of life then as there was no railroad closer than Edmonton and there was plenty of open land for pasture, and Whitford Lake was only a couple of miles away. During the summer, hay was cut and stacked to feed the stock during the winter. George and Alice Johnston tried raising sheep for a few years, but coyotes and wild dogs killed so many they decided to give it up and raise cattle and horses. As time went on they were able to get land cleared and went into mixed-farming.

There were four more children added to the family: Glen in 1896, Percy in 1899, Stella in 1901 and Ernest in 1903.

Pearl married Norman Burgess in 1914. They farmed in the Willingdon district and later retired to Edmonton. (Pearl and Norman are deceased). They had one daughter Dorothy, who married Frank Dorward of Minburn, Alberta. They have three children, Leigh, Sherryll and Keith.

William James married Marguerite Prowse and they had one daughter, Ethel Mae. His second marriage was to Mary Shirka and they had a family of four: Edward, Kenneth, Alice and James. Bill farmed in the Willingdon district until the early 60's when he sold his farm and moved to a new one in



The Johnston family — Front row (l. to r.) — Pearl, Stella, Mr. and Mrs. Johnston. Back row (l. to r.) — son-in-law Norman Burgess, Bill, Percy and Ernie, 1917. The photo was sent to Glen Johnston overseas, World War I.

Rocky Mountain House district, later moving into town, then to Rimbey where they still reside. Edward married Brenda Davies and they have three children. Kenneth married Audrey Shirley Fodness and they have one daughter. Alice married Clifton James Lowry and they have two children. James married Judith Anne Meek.

Glen married Glenna Richardson in 1925 and they had four children: Margaret, Robert, Ronald and Evelyn. Glen farmed in the Willingdon district till 1960, then retired to St. Albert, Alta., where he died in 1972. Margaret married Harold Hoiland in 1950; they have three children: Brian, Karen and Alan. Robert married Alice Anderson in 1951 and they have four children: Bruce, Barry, Barbara and



The Dr. Goodwin Residence in Vegreville owned by George Johnston. Glen Johnston, his wife Glenna, Pearl Richardson and Edith Harris, 1925.



The Johnstons' threshing machine taken at Glen Johnstons. Percy Johnston standing in foreground; Bill Johnston and father George Johnston standing in the grain box, 1920's.

Belinda. In 1953 Ronald married Wilma Lewko (deceased 1978), and they had three daughters: Debra, Julie and Peggy-Sue. Peggy-Sue died at the age of four-and-a-half years. Evelyn married Frank Kwak in 1967 and they live in the Stony Plain district.

Percy married Gladys Van Riper and had a family of four: Gordon, Winnifred, Della and Doris. Winnifred died as an infant. Percy and Gladys farmed in the Willingdon area and retired to Red Deer in 1959. They have since moved to Edmonton. Gordon married Helen Melnyk and they have three children: Lorraine, Douglas and Linda. Della married Harold Huffman and they have two daughters: Karen and Diana. Doris married John Harvey and they have four children: Gregory, Susan, Robert and Kimberly.

Stella married Peter McNee (both deceased) and had a family of four: Lloyd, Jean, Allen and Donald. They lived in Vegreville and Mac worked at Northern Hardware. They later farmed in the Willingdon district and finally moved to Edmonton. Lloyd married Stephanie Sidor and they have two daughters, Caroline and Christine. Jean married Lowell Stewart and they have three children: Laurie, Kevin and Linda. Allen married Patricia Butchart and they have two children, Douglas and Patti. Donald married Ann Lutz and they have two children, Joyce and Darrien.

Ernest married Mabel Van Riper and they had a family of four: Cecil, Edna, Lorna and Raymond. Cecil was deceased at four-and-a-half years. They farmed in the Willingdon district until 1947, then moved to Vegreville and continued farming until retirement in Vegreville. Edna married Gordon Ziegler and they have five children: Rebecca, Arden, Gwen, Colleen and Blair. Lorna married Oscar Plouffe and they had two children, Wayne (deceased) and Judy. Raymond married Joyce Asselstine and they have two children, Colin and Sherry.

The Johnstons farmed in the Whitford district for many years; the children marrying and settling nearby on farms of their own. In 1920 the youngest son Ernie took over the home-place and George and Alice retired to Vegreville to live. They purchased the Dr. Goodwin residence on the north end of town where they resided until 1945 when they sold their home and moved to Edmonton to be near their two daughters. They enjoyed their years in Edmonton, having many grandchildren, both married and single living in the city, and the rest of the family on farms within easy driving distance. Young and old used to gather often for anniversaries, birthdays, etc. at the Grandpa and Grandma Johnston's home at 113 St. and 107 Ave., and we still talk of those good times.

In 1955, just before his 90th birthday, Grandpa passed away. Grandma later sold their home and she lived with her daughter, Pearl Burgess, who was also

a widow. In 1960, at the age of 92, Grandma passed away. George and Alice Johnston were a perfect example of pioneers — neighbourly, friendly and always helpful.

Juba, John and Rose **by Nancy Benoit**

Mr. and Mrs. John Juba arrived from Ukraine in the year 1903 in May with eight children: Katie, Mary, Alex, Anna, Jessie, Matt, John and Bessie, who was a baby. They landed at Warwick and stayed at Yakimetz's until they built on the homestead near Lavoy, six miles north, 1 mile east. The homestead is still in Juba's family; son Nick farms it. John Juba Sr. had left his family on the homestead and went to work on the railway that was being built to the west coast. He was a blacksmith by trade, so was capable of making tools to use on his homestead. He also was instrumental in having a school built, so children could be educated. The school was called Kiew. Then he was instrumental in having a small church built so a priest could come and serve mass. It was the Ukrainian Greek Catholic St. Nicholas. The cemetery still is in use and both are buried there (John and his dear wife Rosie). John Sr. was involved in politics, also served as a school trustee and church trustee, as well as in municipal affairs. He used to conduct church services when the priest couldn't come. The hardships were severe. The children had to go and work in restaurants and do housework, and also babysitting when they were very young. It was hard work for the family as they had to walk to Edmonton, and stayed at people's places overnight. Many times John had to go to bed hungry as some



John and Nancy Juba. About 1930.

would not give him a bite to eat but most were kind and understood the need. Rosie Juba had brought seed from the old country, and cleared and dug a piece of ground to plant it in. Also wheat was cut by hand and threshed, then ground on a home-made grindstone to make flour. They used yeast by leaving bread dough from baking to the next baking. Cows had to be milked three times a day as hay was three feet high. Wild ducks and geese were so plentiful that when they were shot at and flew up you couldn't see the sky. John Sr. used to make his own shell with shot and gunpowder loaded into empty shells he had brought with him. There were lots and lots of wild animals so you had to carry a gun. John and Rose have done very well. The family got married and educated and no one in Juba's family was ever on welfare. They all made enough for their keep. Now the grandchildren have opportunities to be educated. There are judges, professors, lawyers, doctors, school teachers and good farmers. A great deal of respect goes to our dear parents for bringing the family to our wonderful country, Canada. Two more children were born in Canada, Nick and Nancy, who have also contributed to help build our great nation. Nick still owns Juba's homestead and farms it.

Karcha, Anne

by Anne (Hayduk) Karcha

I (Anne) was born and raised on NW22-51-16-W4, between Moscow district and Borschiw church; one mile west was a Roman Catholic Church.

My brother John and I didn't know a word of English when we started school. We talked only Ukrainian at home. Our first teacher was Mrs. Collison who didn't know a word of Ukrainian. At times it was very embarrassing. But we learned English quickly. We walked three and one-half miles to school in summer and rode a horse-drawn sleigh in winter. (Father made the sleigh.) We always had warm clothes.

When I completed my education at the country school (Moscow School), I enrolled in the Olds Agricultural College in 1932-33. Total cost \$190. It took one thousand bushels of wheat at 19¢ a bushel to pay for my education at Olds. One must remember that we had the economic depression at that time. In later years the extra education was of great help in many ways.

In 1935 my father, Peter Hayduk, was president of Moscow Hall; Mike Zagrosh was secretary. The executive hired a musical instructor to teach young boys and girls to play the violin and mandolin and sing in the choir in Moscow Hall. They put on concerts which brought in good money to pay the instructor and for the hall. There were no radio and



John Hayduk and John Karcha (above) were cutting tamarack posts in Hinton and hauling them to the train, 1945.

television then, so people from far away came to these concerts. It was great entertainment for isolated people. The ticket was 15¢.

After the concert the young people danced while the older ones visited. Children were put to sleep on the stage. The dance lasted till two or three in the morning. Then the whole family went home together. In winter the horses had bells on them, each with a different chime, and the sound was beautiful!

To earn some money, I walked four miles to my grandmother's place to help her out. I got paid 25¢ a day. All my girl friends thought I was lucky to have a place to earn some money.

In 1940, when World War II broke out, jobs began to open up. When I heard that they needed help at the Great-West Garment Company in Edmonton, I didn't waste any time. I got a job as a seamstress, and worked for two years. I made \$18 a week by piecework, and paid \$6 a month for a nice big room. I never wasted a penny. I always remembered former hardships. I bought clothes at sale specials, and sent them home.

On November 6, 1942, I married John Karcha. He was a meatcutter at Swifts Packing Plant. He was a farm boy who had stayed on the farm during the depression, the hungry 30's. He had worked by the threshing machine, pitching bundles all day for one dollar. In fourteen days he made \$14. He sent for his first dress suit to T. Eaton's — cost \$17. He was short of three dollars. Since he could not get the three dollars at home, he begged his grandmother and she gave him the three dollars, so he could have his first precious dress suit.

In 1935 there was an early, heavy frost, and all the crops froze. John's father had not saved any grain from previous years. The whole family had to live on

heavy rye bread until the new crop came when they could have white bread.

John Karcha played in the orchestra for one dollar a night. He had to meet his instalment payments on his saxophone which cost \$35.

Both John and I worked at Edmonton till spring, and then went farming the hard way. We were short of everything, even food. We lived off the three cows my mother gave me. We farmed on the eighty acres John had received from his parents. I inherited one hundred sixty acres from my grandmother whom I had to look after.

As there was not enough good well-water on our Smoky Lake land, we sold our different properties and bought a half-section north of Holden — N ½, 3-50-16-W4, all in one piece. Here we were happy, except we lost a child, a boy of six weeks. We had no children after that. We kept farming the 130 acres of cultivated land. We hired Indians, caterpillar tractors, and bulldozers to clear the rest of the land, so many acres every year.

At that time Indians travelled by horse and wagon. The whole family would come — parents, children and babies. We hired them during heavy farm work. They stooked, brushed, and picked roots. Most of them were good workers. (Welfare or assistance was unheard of). They would put up a tent in the middle of the field wherever they worked. They looked after their meals. Everything was all right if they were good managers.

We were the third generation, but we were still clearing land.

Farming is rewarding and pleasant when one has plenty of land to work on and plenty of grain to feed or sell. We were buying more and better machinery every year. In 1955 we installed natural gas and in 1958 we put in power. The conveniences provided us with comfort, and we were getting along well, except during sickness. We had many chores to keep us busy. The farm is a beautiful place to live, where you can see life all around you, especially in spring. The farm dog welcomes you or barks at you. In the house the cat purrs or runs away from you. In the chicken coop the hens are laying eggs till noon, while outside the mother hens are clucking to the chicks, and the rooster is cock-a-doodling all day. In the pigyard are hogs being fattened for market and piglets helping themselves to their milk. Around the barns are milk cows and calves, while in corrals there are steers being finished for market. In the pasture are horses, and mares with their colts. Spring is the “birth” season. We always raised from 200 to 500 turkeys every year. They were such beautiful birds.

In the fall of 1954 we had a bumper crop and needed help. My husband John sent me to the Indian

reserve to hire somebody to stook. Going through Vegreville, I noticed a boy picking up garbage. I asked him if he wished to earn some money by stooking for us. He nodded his head. He was happy to come along with me. After I fed him I took him to the field where I showed him how to stook. He tried hard and by evening he was doing well. But still he was not talking, just nodding his head. Next morning there was about a foot of snow on the ground (it was only the end of September). The boy went out to do the chores but came back freezing. After I gave him some warm comfortable clothes, he worked outside all day. Later we learned his name was Adolphus Bird and he couldn't talk English, only Cree. That is the time we had to make sure he understood what we wanted him to do for us. Conversing was difficult but, after one month, he did not wish to go back home. He spoke broken English and would say, “John, I feed pigs for you.” He was sixteen years old. We decided that he could stay with us and help us with our chores, of which we had many.

In the spring he got sick. After examination by several doctors he was told he had to have an operation on his lungs. By this time he knew quite a bit of English. But he was dead-scared of doctors and the hospital. Dr. Whitside operated on him. I stayed by his bedside for four days, until he knew what the hospital rules were. He got along well with the hospital staff. In August he had an operation on his other lung. This time he carried on very well. The two operations weakened him and we had to be careful about the work assigned to him.

Adolphus Bird stayed with us for four years. He never missed saying “Thank you” after every meal. He could speak good English and good Ukrainian, but he couldn't write. He was very active and ambitious, and even learned how to repair machinery.

He was an orphan and never went back where he came from. We found him to be very pleasant, always full of fun. He used to go to church with us, and loved to play cards with the neighbors when they came to visit during the cold winter months.

When we farmed, we improved every year. First we had five horses. In 1947 we bought a used John Deere tractor on lugs — cost \$1200. In 1959 we got a 720 John Deere tractor on rubber tires — cost \$4000. In 1964 we purchased a 4020 John Deere tractor on rubber tires for \$8600. This last tractor is still being used in 1980.

Our first pick-up truck was a G.M.C. in 1949. We really enjoyed this pick-up after driving horses all these years.

In those days we carried on mixed-farming. We kept milk cows, cattle, horses, hogs, turkeys, and chickens. Everything needed a different type of

fence. All the fencing had to be put up by hand. There was always lots of work, never a dull moment. Farmers are usually over-tired but happy. Their outing is going to town to do the shopping and visit neighbors.

In the fall, when the turkeys were ready to be killed, we would have a bee. The neighbors would come in old clothes, do their work, crack jokes and laugh. A good meal and refreshments would be the pay. Many still talk about the good times they had at these bees. Everybody expected to be invited.

In 1969 we sold our livestock and built a house in Vegreville — 4602 — 50 Street. We only crop the land. After we got settled in Vegreville I worked two years in motels, four years as a waitress and five years clerking in different carpet stores.

Town life was very different — nothing to do in the evenings. Different noises bothered me for a long time. It took me five years to get used to town life.

Now I shall relate four trips we took in the 1970's.

In 1972, with another couple — Peter and Helen Grabas — we went on a six-week trip to California and Arizona. We visited Death Valley, Disneyland, Knotts Berry Farm, etc. We saw how oranges, lemons and dates grow. I gambled at Las Vegas; I won one dollar and then lost one dollar. That is a wonderful place to lose money if you have lots of it.

When I was a little girl, my mother read to us. We learned that somewhere there was an island where the temperature was the same summer and winter. At that time I couldn't believe it. In February, 1976, my husband and I took a trip to Hawaii. Then I realized that what my mother had read to us was true. Hawaii is a beautiful group of islands. Today it is very commercialized. We visited the U.S.S. Arizona Memorial at Pearl Harbour; saw Waikiki beach where sand, surf and sun are enjoyed the year round; and saw the pineapple fields, National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, Punch Bowl, beautiful tropical sunsets and papaya trees which bear fruit all year round. The banyan tree is 175 feet in its spread. The monkey-pod tree is seen all over the island and its huge limbs spread out like a giant umbrella. The hard wood of these trees is used for beautifully-finished bowls, plates, curios, tables, etc. The tree grows eighty feet tall. We saw the world-famous Polynesian Cultural Centre at Laie, Oahu, Hawaii. Each race has interesting arts, crafts, singing, dancing, and family living at this Centre.

Hearing from friends, who made trips to the Philippine Islands, that they come back relaxed and feeling better, we decided to go there too.

In March, 1978, we took off by C.P. Air to Tokyo, Japan, our first refueling stop. We found most of the Japanese very small, but they moved very fast.

After a three-hour flight we landed at Hong Kong. Since we had a 48-hour stay, we took a tour of the city. The place was very crowded and high-rises spread out to the ocean. Some people live on boats; they were called "floating people". We went through Harbor Tunnel — Hong Kong to Kowloon. We visited the colorful Tiger Palm Gardens, owned by one man. Fantastic work! All over the city we saw very many naked children. After a flight of five hours we landed at Manilla, Philippines, a very clean and beautiful place. We noticed the extremes — the rich and the poor. They have the wet and the dry season. The country is mountainous, and the people plant their rice on terraced or staircase farms that seem to reach the stars. We learned that some terraced farms were 2000 years old, laboriously built by hand labor. We saw women carrying water from below to water their rice fields higher up the mountain.

The native fruit, the carobao, is very sweet and tasty. Bananas, papayas, watermelons, etc. are grown.



John and Ann Karcha — 35th wedding Anniversary, 1977.

For many years I was invited by my auntie and cousins from Poland to visit them. On June 1, 1979, I went by Air Canada to Poland (used to be the Ukraine).

In Warsaw I met a tour group that was arranged from Canada. The first day we met Pope John Paul II who was visiting Poland and having services in different parts of the country. The Pope said, "I am the son of this Polish land." We saw the place where he was born, and the schools and churches which he attended. He was respected all over Poland. All homes, churches, and streets were decorated in his honor. I will always remember the three million people singing for him; all knew the words, and the spectacle was beautiful.

Warsaw, which became the capital of Poland in 1596, was almost completely destroyed during World

War II. Since then it has been rebuilt. Krakow, a very beautiful city, was not damaged by war. It has many well-preserved historical monuments. In the Wieliczka salt mines near the city are amazing carvings of rock salt, fascinating sculptures, a great hall, chapels, lakes, tennis court for miners, and sanitarium for asthma patients — the only one of its kind in the world.

Oswiecim (Auschwitz) was once a Nazi operated extermination camp. The tour through it lasted five hours, but we did not see everything. We did see the following: administrative offices, prison cells, camp commandant's house, main guard house, camp headquarters, kitchen, hospital, gas chamber, crematorium, store rooms, work shops, warehouse containing possessions left behind by the liquidated prisoners, place where the camp orchestra played, and blocks of prisoners' quarters. A very sad spectacle! My cousin's husband, who was twelve years old during the war, was confined to this camp for two and one-half years. He related some very sad stories.

After the ten-day tour I travelled by train for eight hours to Peremysel to see my relatives. We were greeted with a bouquet of flowers. I travelled by car about thirty kilometres. The people worked on small parcels of land and lived in villages. They said that things are getting progressively better. Children are encouraged to go to school. Most people have or are building new homes.

Poland is one-third the size of Alberta but has a population of thirty-five million people (close to twenty times that of Alberta). Everybody is working. There is no welfare nor assistance. People get a pension when they are sixty-five years old.

People stated they are better off now. Much of the land owned by the landlords was subdivided and given to the poor.

Coming home I felt much better knowing that the people in Poland were living more comfortably now.

Kassian Family

by Eileen (Bilinski) Kassian

The three Kassian brothers Lazar, Todor and Nick, who settled six miles west of Vegreville in 1898, were from the village of Chohor near the Bukovina provincial capital of Chernivtsi in Western Ukraine. The provincial regions of Galicia, Bukovina and Ruthenia were within the borders of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. The country was known as "Austria".

Lazar and Kasandra Kassian were just married a year in 1898 when they decided to make their home in Canada. At the time of sailing they had an infant son Constantine. Lazar's two brothers, Todor and

Nick, also came with them. They each sold a small piece of land to pay for their trip. They were told that in Canada a man would soon own more land than the landlord in Ukraine, if he worked hard.

The trip to Hamburg in a crowded train seemed endless.

Kasandra had taken with them only necessities for the baby and themselves, some seeds and herbs for the anticipated garden, household goods and a few potatoes which she secretly wrapped in the bedding.

Her husband brought homemade tools, such as an axe, a sickle, the metal part of a spade, a hoe without a handle and a flail. The flail was used to separate the grain from dried heads of wheat by beating them on the ground.

At Hamburg they boarded the steamship Armenia and sailed to Halifax near the end of August. The ocean crossing took about two weeks. The sea was rough for three days and some of the voyagers were seasick.

On landing the passengers were guided to an immigration hall in Halifax where they were deloused, vaccinated, examined for disease and their clothes were steamed, before they were able to continue their journey. Here the officials talked to them in English though they didn't understand the language.

As the Iron Horse groaned and puffed its way westward, they viewed Ontario with some dismay and concern. The terrain was mountainous and rocky, densely forested, and small and large bodies of water dotted the countryside.

"Can this be Canada?", questioned Nick. "How can we make a living on land like that?"

No one spoke. They were forming the same question in their minds but forced themselves to think of the home they would build in this great new land.



The Kassian brothers and sisters, at family reunion on family farm, July 1, 1978.



The second Kassian house built about 1912 on the homestead. Two hundred descendants of Lazar and Todor Kassian gathered for a Reunion July 1 and 2, 1978.

Occasionally they passed some straw-thatched houses with patches of cleared land for vegetables and crops. In a fenced area they noticed an underfed-cow and an ox grazing. Todor spoke as if to himself, "I gave up two fat sows to look at skeletons like those!"

Glancing at the dejected and solemn faces before him, Lazar himself felt a twinge of regret for leaving his homeland. He assumed an optimistic and gay front and jokingly said, "No, this is not Canada; somewhere beyond the horizon, fences will be made of garlic sausage, the roofs thatched with salt pork, and if you need something to wash it down with, just slit the bark of a tree with an axe, hold your cup under it and you'll have all the whisky and wine you desire. If you hunger for dumplings shake a poplar and they'll come falling down. All we'll have to do is eat, drink and sleep!"

This revelation prompted instant laughter and more jokes. Everyone became more relaxed and in better spirits.

Todor added, "The drip won't be high, you won't need a cup — lie on the ground and sup it all up."

Listening to this light banter, Kasandra nudged her husband and chided, "After you've all had your fill, find some bread for our son!"

As the train continued its journey westward,

someone in the coach would ask, "Is there no end? When do we get there?"

After five days they reached their destination.

Early Days in Alberta

As the newcomers filed out of the coach, an immigration official appeared. By words, sign language and much hand-waving, he let them know that they were to follow him. He led them into an immigration building where benches lined the walls and a fired-up pot-bellied stove sat in the middle of the room. They were to share this accommodation until a homestead was found. By pointing a finger and gyrating as if he was driving a horse or eating off the table, the agent got it across that appropriate supplies could be purchased in the general direction of his pointing finger.

At that moment an elderly man came in looking for a strong young man to hire for harvesting. He saw one standing with his back to the stove. Approaching him he inquired, "Do you speak English?" The young man rubbed his buttocks, grimaced and answered, "Ya spik . . . [I burned myself]."

Since the sun was still high, the three men decided to explore the small town. They entered a small store which also served as a Post Office, the owner of which, luckily, was a Ukrainian who spoke broken English and served as an interpreter for any one needing assistance. Upon his instruction, the broth-



The Kassian Family, 1930's.

ers pooled their money and purchased oxen and a crude wagon. "Oxen", the store owner said, "are better than horses for the work. Horses need oats, hay, and a warm barn to shelter them during the long, cold winter months". He explained that they should visit the Land Titles Office and obtain a map of the area with available land.

The next morning they bought some supplies, loaded their wagon and set out over rocky Indian trails, through open and wooded country, to choose their land.

The rough wagon ride was especially tiring for the young mother whose arms grew painful and stiff from holding the baby at arms' length, shielding him from the constant bumping and swaying.

When it was finally decided which quarter-section of land each would acquire, she breathed a deep sigh of relief, and religiously and in the traditional manner, crossed herself. A tear formed on her pale cheeks as she recalled the statement that in this land one would eat and dress like the rich. Now, she thought, they had less than before. They would probably have to wear rags, eat bark off trees, and the most nagging thought of all, that their little son might perish from hunger.

That night they slept on the wagon with the oxen tied to a tree nearby. At sunrise next morning the men cut some trees to make a temporary shelter, for protection from the wind and rain. Kasandra searched the wooded area for dry fallen trees and branches. These she hauled and stacked near the lean-to to use for firewood. Inside, near the entrance, a hollow was formed where stones were arranged in a circle to provide a makeshift stove. With a sickle she cut and carried long grass which she piled on the ground inside to serve as a mattress. Then she found suitable tree stumps to use as chairs.

Water, for their needs, collected in a deep hole they had managed to dig near the shelter. Sometimes, to catch rain water, hollow cups were fashioned from wild rhubarb leaves drawn loosely together and tied with long grass or green willow twigs. In the winter, snow was melted everyday for washing and cleaning.

After the temporary shelter was provided, the men made a grueling trip for necessary supplies. They also visited the Land Titles Office where their claims were filed, and the fee of \$10.00 paid for each quarter-section of land. An interpreter explained that to get full ownership of the land, they had to occupy and improve it. This meant they had to build a house, clear about ten acres and begin farming. If these terms were met, another quarter-section could be purchased for a small sum.

While in town, Todor and Nick inquired about job opportunities. They were advised to look for work on the railroad, at the local sawmill, or in the mines. It was decided that they would help Lazar build a house and clear more land, then look for winter employment. Todor's home would be built the following spring.

Building a House

Land was cleared on the crest of a hill where the poplars were small and thinly scattered. Trees were cut and the logs hauled from the forest to the new site. Each log was carefully peeled and firmly put into place. A mixture of clay, mud, straw or grass mixed with water was used to fill the cracks between the logs to make the house snug and warm. It was plastered on the inside first by throwing the mixture until it oozed out between the logs, then it was spread over evenly by hand. When that was dry, the outside was plastered by the same method including the roof. The following year, when straw was available, the roof would be thatched. The outside walls were banked with earth to keep out the cold. In the middle of one long wall of the house, a door led into an entrance or storage room. On one side of the entrance there was a kitchen and on the other a bedroom. In the kitchen a mud-plastered half-moon oven, about six feet long, was fashioned to provide heat and for baking bread. About half the oven, near the rear, had a flat top. On cold nights the children slept on the platform for warmth. A small window in each of the two rooms flanked the door. The floor was of levelled and packed earth. The simple furniture — table, benches and bed — were made from rough poles and planks. Leaves, straw, hay or a combination of these served as a mattress.

A crib was fashioned and hung from the rafter. Since the heat rises, the infant was cozy and warm.

The First Year

About November, Todor and Nick set out on foot to look for a job. They had helped gather firewood and hay and planned to return in the spring.

Somehow the small family that remained survived the bitterly cold and depressing winter. When the temperature rose in early March, everyone was overjoyed to see signs of spring. There was much to be done. From a farmer, four miles away, Lazar bought a milk cow and her calf, a sow recently farrowed and her litter, three laying hens and a rooster. He was anxious to build fenced lean-to shelters for the animals before the warm planting weather arrived.

On April 4, 1899, Kasandra surprised her husband, on his birthday, with an extra special meal of potatoes, mashed beans, cooked dried fruit and white bread. With an appreciative glance he facetiously remarked, "I thought I wouldn't eat any more potatoes in Canada, only meat!" "Before we have new ones you'll be wishing for a potato peel", she retorted.

As soon as the snow melted, work on the land began. The two brothers returned about the middle of April and once again they all worked together in whatever needed doing. They brought half a pail of wheat which they shared with Lazar. From their employment in the mine they were able to lend Lazar a small sum of money which he promised to repay in the fall.

Kasandra planted her garden in the spring — enough to give them vegetables through the winter. The wheat and hemp was sowed by hand. That winter, flour for bread-baking was ground from their own wheat. They used a neighbor's hand-operated flour mill "zhorna". The grain was crushed into flour by two flat, round stones. Kasandra heard of another neighbor who had an oil-pressing machine "olinytsia". The seeds from hemp yielded enough cooking oil to last the winter. (Note: The new century dictionary describes hemp as "having narcotic and poisonous properties and yielding hashish". The explanation is subject to dispute, but the sauerkraut Kasandra served with chopped onion and the aromatic hemp oil, forty years later, has never been surpassed by anything I have eaten since).

Brother Nick lived with Todor whenever he was around. He was discontented with his quarter-section and had no desire to improve his land. After working in the mine for five years, he decided to return to his homeland.

Progress through the Years

In the next ten years, Lazar acquired his own horses and machinery and had most of his land in

crop. Now there was enough staple food to feed their growing family of five sons. By 1911 a larger house became an absolute necessity. A two-storey house was built a half-mile from the old site. On the floor of the second storey, thick layers of hay served as a mattress for their sons. A wide veranda spanned the west and south sides of the house. A well, with a windmill, still stands below the crest of the hill. The original site is two miles directly south of Royal Park, Alberta.

As the sons developed and grew strong, they helped with the chores and the necessary farm work. Year by year the family prospered and more land was acquired which created more work. Though some of the boys were of school age, their attendance at school was irregular because they were needed on the farm during spring planting and fall harvest.

Between 1910 and 1919 the family increased when two more sons and two daughters were born.

About 1914 a binder was purchased which, when pulled by horses, cut and bundled the grain. The family had the first Avery steam tractor that drove a threshing machine. The wheat that came from the side was bagged and taken to granaries. Many men were required at threshing time.

The first automobile in the district was purchased by the Kassian family about 1920. It was a 490 Chevrolet with flaps that could be rolled up on nice days or snapped on for protection from the elements. Father Kassian had not learned to drive, but the third son, Nick, was eager to oblige. The family was thus able to attend church services, accept invitations to traditional Ukrainian holiday celebrations with friends or go shopping to Vegreville. They also entertained family, neighbors and friends on St. John's Day, July 7th, annually.

Homesteading or farming was a time-consuming, never-ending task for Mother Kassian. Between seeding and harvesting, when the men worked in the fields, she did the chores, worked in her garden, looked after the small children and prepared soup and simple nourishing meals for the family. She was tall and slender and never varied her wardrobe. Over a long wide-sleeved white blouse — plain for week days, embroidered for holidays — she wore a black ankle-length skirt gathered at the waist. A shawl, tied under her chin, covered the coiled hair on top of her head, giving her face an elongated appearance.

Lazar had the exceptional physique and inner strength that protected him from disease and exhaustion during his early pioneering days and well into his years of retirement. His service with the Austrian army instilled in him a certain military bearing. A mustache, turned up at the ends, enhanced his handsome features.

A well-known Kassian orchestra was organized about 1924 with Peter on the drums, William (Bill) on the dulcimer. Nick played the harmonious alto on the violin and Todor's son Peter (Shorty Pete), a cousin, played the principal melody. The latter conducted his own orchestra until 1977.

Between 1922 and 1945 the nine Kassian members found mates and married. Most of the wedding celebrations were held on the farm. Food was prepared and baked in the outdoor mud-plastered oven. The guests sat around a long table in the dining room where the wedding banquet was served. A machine shed decorated with streamers, sporting a new floor and lined with benches, provided a dancing area. Each son received a quarter of land when he married and left the family homestead.

Prior to Gordon's marriage, the parents moved to Vegreville. That year Mother Kassian's health was failing and on September 12, 1945, the Master's ever-loving hand led our loved one tenderly into His bright eternal land.

On March 16, 1957, Lazar left his earthly home, at the age of 86, to dwell with the Supreme Maker on high.

The Nine Children of Kasandra and Lazar Kassian

1. Constantine, the immigrant infant was born 1898. In 1922 he married Lena Yakimchuk (1899), a good cook. He was once the Mayor of Hairy Hill and operated a grocery store there. They have four children — Alice Laschowski, Anne Orlecky, Mary Rudyk and Walter Kassian. Walter has four sons to carry on the name.

2. A pretty lass from Kaleland, Kate Diachuk (1910) won John's (1901) heart and love. They tied the knot in 1927. Four children were their pride and joy — Mike of Edmonton, Hilda Saprunoff, Stella Bray, and Tom. The sons are still farming.

3. Nick (1904) was married to Hilda Porayko in 1927. She left this cruel world in January, 1934. From that union there are two children — Roy manages the liquor store in Mannville, and Ruby Reid sells real estate in Kelowna, British Columbia. Nick winked once too often at Eileen Bilinski, a hairdresser, so she married him October 18, 1936. She curled his hair until it fell out! Eileen loved children so she accepted what God sent — Marvin, a C.N.R. Engineer; Harvey, a Treasury Branch Manager in Stettler, who counts money; Dennis, an ex-professional hockey player, promotes Jordan wines; Lorne, a radio announcer and Parkway Country promoter; Sharon, secretary to an Assistant Deputy Minister in the Department of Advanced Education and Manpower; Eric, a University of Alberta student, learning more each day; and Marlene, a Court Clerk, who learns by

watching. Six live in Edmonton, trying to earn money to count.

4. William (Bill) (1906) yearned for more education so he implored a teacher, Anne Yurechuk (1910) to marry him in 1932. They have Terry, A pharmacist, and Leonard, an accountant. They all reside in Edmonton. Education is a continuous process!

5. Peter, the drummer (1908) married the lovely Lucy Fundytus (1915) in October, 1932. Edward, retired professional hockey player of Leon's Men's Wear, Vegreville, and Betty Marshall of Ancaster, Ontario, are their children. Betty is a nurse and keeps everyone in stitches. There are six grandchildren.

6. Mary is a July child (1910). She, too, married in 1932 to Harry Chorney, now a retired barber of Red Deer. Their union produced Larry of Fairview and William of Ponoka. The latter deals in wheels.

7. Steve (1913) was married to Hazel Karrer in 1942. There were two children: Bonnie (Cessford) and Allan. In November, 1971, he tied the knot with a gorgeous widow, Kay Hewko. They live in Jasper, Alberta, and manage the Black Diamond Motel.

8. In 1917 handsome Gordon was born. He fell in love with Olga Charuk (1925) and so they were married on July 15, 1945. They love son Tim. So do we.

9. Rose wrote "Mrs. George Holowaychuk" on every page of the Eaton's Catalogue. When she had enough practice, Rose (1919) wed George (1916) on September 24, 1939. Carrying on the tradition, they received God's gifts of Sonja Davis, Joyce Harder, Susan Potzold, Gary, Ray, Randy, Ted and Corinne. They operated the Tudor Inn in White Rock, British Columbia.

The Kassian Reunion

The first reunion of some 200 descendants of Lazar and Todor Kassian was held July 1 and 2, 1978, at the original homestead where the second house was erected. Lorne Kassian, son of Nick and Eileen, organized the reunion and prepared a family tree with the aid of many relatives and friends. All who attended may recall, with fond memories in future years, the offspring and families of Todor and Lazar Kassian. They made our life easier today because they lived yesterday.

In Memoriam

Kasandra Kassian
1879-1945

Lazar Kassian
1871-1957

Down memory lane we'll stroll today
And pick a rose or two,
We'll proudly lay them on your graves
With loving thoughts of both of you.

Kassian, Nick and Eileen
by Mrs. Nick (Eileen Bilinski) Kassian
Echoes of Childhood

Perhaps, only as an adult, I realized how unusual a childhood I had, normal and placid in many respects but pathetic in others.

Technically, I was an orphan, though I had a father somewhere over the ocean called Canada, but I didn't have the least knowledge of him.

Being an orphan was a degrading and lonely condition and one was expected to work hard for one's keep. I did not have much either materially or emotionally. I loved and worked along with the adults just as most young people did who had parents.

My birthplace was the village of Kolendiany, district-range Chortkiw, province of Galicia, country of Austria (as I knew it). The village itself was very

small, situated along a slow-flowing river. There was one general store where I was outfitted for my journey to Canada. Two churches, an Orthodox and a Catholic, served the religious and spiritual needs of the community. In the only school in the village, three grades were taught. If a family were in a fair financial situation and their off-spring were inclined toward further studies, then the next hall of learning would be the university in large cities. At the tender age of eight or nine my dream and aspirations were to go to university and become a teacher. No logical thought ever entered my mind as to the feasibility of such a dream but once established it persisted throughout my teen years.

Centrally located along the only hard-surfaced road that ran through the hamlet, was a liquor store and a bar that offered balm for the weary, relaxation from the daily grind and exchange of the latest news



N. Kassian family, at reunion on family farm, July 1, 1978.

and happenings. Not too distant was the town hall where a clerk dispensed the village transactions. The administration of the village was performed by a landlord who provided the only avenue of employment for meagre wages. Primarily, the people were small farmers who derived a living off the land.

The City of Chortkiw lay along the Dniester River about fourteen kilometers away. On a cold day in early January my uncle and I made a trip by sleigh to have my passport photograph taken.

The First Decade

In June of 1912 John Bilinski, age 26 and Anne Kozak, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Nick Kozak, were married amid rumors of war and conscription. They shared a home under the same straw-thatched roof in the same yard with John's married sister, Mary Chaykowski. Each family had one room separated by a hallway which contained the one entrance door. Through the door, chickens entered to go up a ladder to the attic where shavings were spread for insulation. Over the other room fruit was stored in the shavings for winter use. Each room boasted a plank bed in one corner, a wooden table, long benches on two sides of the room, a cook stove and a mud-plastered oven where delicious breads and other foods were baked. Back of the oven and behind the stove a raised alcove provided sleeping quarters and warmth for young children, including me. The floor was of hard-packed earth which on Christmas Eve was strewn with thick layers of soft and fragrant hay. The children loved rolling on it.

Each family had a barn to house whatever stock they possessed and a corn bin where corn was stored and dried. Later the corn kernels were removed off the cob and ground into corn flour. A staple food — corn meal mush — was cooked by boiling three cups water with one-half teaspoon salt and adding one cup of corn meal. When thickened it was eaten with a bit of sugar and milk, cheese and cream, eggs, strawberries or out of hand with any fresh fruit.

At harvest time sheaves of grain were stored to dry in a large building. Inside, during winter, it was threshed by beating the kernels out of the heads of wheat, with a flail. This consisted of a five-foot stick, used as a handle, and a shorter three-foot piece used as a flail, that were joined by a piece of flexible leather about four inches long. The grain was separated from the chaff by winnowing with a sieve.

To escape the war and by mutual agreement, John Bilinski applied to the immigration authorities to immigrate to Canada. By the time all was finalized a daughter was born (me) March 5, 1913 and given the name Mychalina Bilinska. With assurance that he would send for them when he earned enough money in Canada, he left his young wife and infant daughter

on May 16, 1913. He sailed from Trieste on the SS Polonia May 31 and arrived in Quebec June 29. The last stopover recorded was at Fort Francis, Ontario, on July 9.

The next two years mother and I lived in the one room (described previously) until 1915 when she contracted the deadly disease, the Black Plague, from which three sisters perished in one week. I was then taken by my grandparents where I stayed three years.

Somewhere in the dim past I recall a big yard, a white-washed house surrounded by trees and a thick high stone fence. Many family members shared this home. My recollections are from about age four when running around the top of the stone fence I fell and cracked the left side of my forehead where a scar still remains. Bread and milk poultices and applications of sour cream finally healed the cut. When I was of school age I lived with my aunt and uncle who were one block from school.

At sunrise each morning youngsters of every age herded the cows at a public pasture or on the lush green grass along the ditches. On one of these outings a few of us wandered into a raspberry patch off the side of the road. "Come on, let's go", someone shouted. Walking along and picking raspberries I suddenly realized that I was alone. Panic seized me as, calling and screaming, I plunged on. Branches caught at my hair and the low branches tugged at my clothes. In fear and desperation, head and heart pounding, I stumbled onto a lonely unfamiliar road. Sinking into the grass, I cried till sobs shook my body. In my solitude, I heard a voice, "Have faith, your guardian angel is watching you". I raised my head and there around the bend, coming toward me, appeared a wagon with horses and driver. After brief explanations to his questions he drove me to the junction and directed me from there.

Henceforth I stayed with my cow — so close in fact, that one day she stepped on my right foot and when I tried to chase her off she twisted on it and caused an open wound which developed into blood poisoning. My aunt performed some ritual by placing twelve heads of wheat and entreating the Deity to cleanse the wound. Soft silken colored threads were drawn out and onto the heads of wheat.

Spring and summer I hoed and weeded in the garden and during harvest walked a long way with the adults to their plots to cut wheat with a sickle. During the summer, clothes were washed in the river by beating out the dirt with a paddle on a large stone near the bank. At the same location hemp was soaked, washed and dried on the bank. The hemp seeds were crushed on a home-made oil-pressing

machine and provided oil for the winter. From the fibres, linen was woven on the loom during winter.

Up a steep incline I carried water in two pitcher-like wooden pails hooked at each end of a shoulder paddle. I was a bit taller than the pails.

The female members of the family usually went barefoot in warm weather, and shared a pair of boots in winter. One day 14-year-old cousin Jean wore the boots to do chores. Coming in from my barefoot slide on the ice, I noticed boots lying in the doorway. I called my aunt and together we carried the unconscious girl into the house. Next day, services of a doctor were obtained from Chortkiw. While she was examined, I witnessed a light in the form of a horse-shoe that flashed on and off several times above the left breast. Was I the only one to see it? Did the doctor notice it? Did the horse kick her in that area? I will never know, for she passed away the following day.

On a Sunday afternoon, five years before her death when Jean and I were playing, we found a large branch. She instructed me to pull her on it. Somehow she fell off and scraped the side of her face on the road. Her father was so angry with me, I would have been severely punished had I not run away and hid in the corner of the garden where I slept through the night.

Far away a war was raging. Sometime we would see an airplane or an armored car. After Armistice two enemy troops met in the village and carried on their warfare in our yard where the flying bullets punctured holes in the tin barn roof. Jean and I were sent into the basement and wrapped in feather quilts and pillows. Next day trenches were dug outside the village where fighting continued. Later many torn and mutilated corpses were buried in the same trenches. At another place, when I was cutting grain, two soldiers fought each other with bayonets. It is not a pleasing sight to witness a human torso thresh around like a chicken without a head.

There were many pleasant memories as well — Christmas Eve celebrations, with church mass and carollers calling on every household; New Year had the “malanka” when young people dressed in various costumes and paraded the village streets; Epiphany when Christ was christened — a huge cross was cut out of the ice on the river, stood up; mass and the blessing of water was performed. After the Easter service the Easter baskets were blessed outside the church. Then everyone sat down to eat from their blankets, filled with pungent odors of roasted suckling piglets, garlic sausage, cheese, Easter breads and colored eggs. Everyone took part in games and Easter songs while the teenage girls gracefully performed the may-pole dance.

In November, 1922, I was informed that my father had made arrangements for me to join him in Canada. The prospect was frightening to me but on February 10, 1923, I sailed from Liverpool on the SS Ausonia and landed in Halifax, February 20th. During the voyage I became friendly with parents of a girl my age. They were aware that I had spending money, but that I did not know its worth. A loan now and then depleted my ready cash but they promised faithfully to repay it when they arrived in Canada. One thing I learned — don't be seduced by false praise and promises. People like that are self-centered and without conscience.

Sometimes, dejected and lonely, I stood at the railing watching the ocean waves and sang softly —
Little nightingale, sing to me,
For I'm in a strange country,
I have no family, father or mother,
I am alone — no sister or brother.

Unaccompanied female passengers like me wore a red identifying ribbon supplied by a matron on board ship. At Winnipeg, a matron took me to a lunch counter where I had my first taste of ice cream. It was too cold to chew!

From Winnipeg to Vegreville I was in good company. An elderly lady sat beside me on the train and asked if my name was Mychalina Bilinska. She explained that she knew my father who married her daughter so that a woman would look after a little girl that was expected in their home. She was returning from Chicago where she visited with her son. We were met at the station, on February 23, by a stranger who was my father. With my father and new grandmother, we were greeted by an instant family — mother, brother and sister. My yearning for a close family was instantly fulfilled and the song, so wistfully repeated on board ship, lost its meaning. Roy and Kate, fourteen and seventeen respectively, were living at home. Jim had joined the army. As the two men went their different ways in search of fame and fortune, we seldom met. With Mr. and Mrs. William (Kate) Paley of Vernon, British Columbia, we have enjoyed a congenial relationship through the years. They have one daughter, Shirley Decker, and four grandchildren living in Edmonton.

The grandmother, with whom I stayed a great deal and went with her to every silent cowboy film, died in 1926. My wonderful step-mother passed away in Edmonton on March 29, 1943, at the age of sixty.

Father left for High Prairie to homestead in 1927 where he passed away on January 16, 1964, at the age of seventy-seven.

May God give them peace and eternal rest.
Death is just the passing
To God's sweet world above;

Faith is just the entering
Into God's Eternal love.

Progress in Education

In Austria I had three grades in Ukrainian and a year in Polish. On my tenth birthday, March 5, 1923, I started Grade I in the old school that has been replaced by Dr. Cairns School for the Retarded. After four o'clock a few of us stayed for further instruction in English taught by Miss Goodman.

Steady and rewarding progress was made through the elementary grades. Mrs. Murray, a Grade VII teacher, recommended to Mr. McCrea, the principal, that Alex Mandruk and I be promoted to Grade VIII in February, 1929. She liked our competitive spirit. We enlisted Alice Dowhaniuk, a Grade VIII class leader, to help us with some subjects. By June the three of us were at the top of the class. For one day, that term, I substituted for a Grade II teacher who became ill.

From about 1925 a one-day school Festival was held annually with Vegreville and district schools participating. Successful competitors in drama, singing, dancing and recitations performed in a grand concert at the Vimy Theatre in the evening. Marge Shaw was our singing teacher.

Every spring Mr. Peter Svarich distributed vegetable garden seeds to pupils who wanted to plant them. The gardens were judged later in the season. I won several awards and began exhibiting vegetables at the Vegreville Agricultural Fair.

Throughout my school days in Vegreville, Miss Mary Black was the Public Health nurse and later for my children.

The old brick building across from the Vegreville Swimming Pool was the high school where I attended Grade IX classes. In June \$1.00 was required for each examination paper written. My mother did not have the necessary funds and had to borrow from a Mr. Cadzow, a livestock dealer.

In July 1930, I went with an aunt to Edmonton to look for a job, still hoping to continue with further studies. I secured employment in a private home for \$1.00 a week plus board and room. I registered in Grade X at Composite High in Edmonton in September. Because I could not pay my tuition fee of \$75.00, I was constantly in the principal's office or interviewed by the Edmonton Public School Board. By December the principal finally allowed me to stay because I had the highest marks in class and said, "You are a good example to the English students". The few dollars I earned I spent on second-hand books and scribblers. My wardrobe contained — my sister's skirt and blouse, one dress, a pair of scuffed shoes, a pair of patched stockings and a winter coat which I also wore during cool summer evenings. In

the spring of that term my Uncle Walter Kozak from Saskatoon came to visit and bought me three dresses and a pair of shoes. My dream of ever becoming a teacher gradually faded as I struggled for a living.

Though frustrated, I was not beaten. During summer holidays I worked for three households. Now I was determined to become a stenographer. In the fall I enrolled in Commercial High where Mr. Percy Page was principal and coach of the famous Commercial Grads Basketball Team. At the end of the term my bookkeeping instructor recommended that I write Bookkeeping II which I had not studied. Not prepared for extra expenditures and lacking necessary funds, I was helped by Mr. Page who was a most willing benefactor. May God bless this generous soul.

That fall my mother moved to Edmonton. Living at home I worked for very low wages at Cunard Steam Ship Company. After that I clerked at the Metropolitan Store and later at the Hudson's Bay.

In September of 1935, I took a hairdressing course at the Marvel Beauty School as well as working on sale days at the Bay. Next spring I returned to Vegreville and worked in hairdressing with Mary Kostashuk at the rear of Bender's Barber Shop. The business was successful and for the first time I was making progress financially. I had been considering a move to Saskatoon when my plans were changed suddenly and I assumed a marital status.

And So They Were Married

On October 18, 1936, I, Eileen Bilinski, and Nick Kassian (January 17, 1904) were married and lived on a farm six miles west of Vegreville. I had an instant family (my life in retrospect), a husband, son Roy, eight, and daughter Ruby, three. I had the responsibilities and hard work but no remuneration. The crops were hailed out three years in succession and we were in debt. In 1939 Nick started working for the North Star Oil Company and continued farming. Until 1944, when we moved to the Town of Vegreville, the three oldest children attended Ryan School where Mona (Casson) Clements was the teacher.

1. Roy, the oldest, was born August 11, 1928. He retired from 20-year service with the Air Force and now is manager of the Alberta Liquor Store in Mannville, Alberta. He married Lucie Charpentier (July 25, 1928) stenographer and hairdresser. They have two sons — Dale (September 26, 1954) married Cathy (August 23, 1955) on February 6, 1976. They have two daughters Angela and Oleosha. Son Mark is nineteen (August 3, 1960).

2. Ruby Reid (April 14, 1933) lives in Kelowna, British Columbia. She was an X-Ray Technician, now in Real Estate. She has no family.

3. Marvin arrived on a very cold morning, December 9, 1937. He is a locomotive engineer with the C.N.R. in Edmonton. Married to Mary McLeod (December 19, 1938) January 21, 1963, they have a fine son David (June 25, 1958) and a lovely teenage daughter, Susan (October 13, 1963).

4. On a beautiful day on June 13, 1939 Harvey was born. He's a manager of the Treasury Branch in Stettler, Alberta. His wife, Shirley Wynnchuk (July 19, 1938) is formerly a Vegreville girl and a dedicated school teacher. They have no family.

5. Dennis was born on a rainy day, July 14, 1941, and lives in Edmonton. He is a retired Edmonton Oiler hockey player and now works for Jordan Wines. Dennis and Doris (Lund, June 25, 1943) were married January 18, 1963, and have two daughters — dependable Donna (April 30, 1963) and 12-year-old Dorinda (April 7, 1967).

6. February 1, 1943, the dynamic Aquarius Lorne (King) Kassian was born. He is a CHQT radio announcer and does commercials for Parkway Country. His wife (married November 18, 1972) is the former Marianne Kraus (June 14, 1945), stenographer. They have three daughters — Christine (September 10, 1966), Cindy (July 5, 1975) and Kim (May 6, 1978).

7. Daughter Sharon was born April 3, 1949. She is a secretary to an Assistant Deputy Minister in the Department of Advanced Education and Manpower in Edmonton.

8. May 1, 1955, blonde Eric arrived. He is continuing his education in Business Administration and Commerce at the University of Alberta.

9. Marlene, the youngest daughter, born October 7, 1957, performs Court clerking duties in the Court House in Edmonton.

All the children received their schooling in Vegreville.

Prayer:

Dear Lord,

I ain't done all I wanted to do;

I ain't done all I could do;

I ain't done all I should do;

But I sure ain't been standing still.

Sharing Community Life

After 23 years on the family homestead, Nick Kassian worked on his own farm for 17 years. He exhibited the Percheron Breed of horses in pairs or double pairs at the Vegreville Exhibitions. When we moved to Vegreville in 1944, Nick was with the North Star Oil Company until 1947. In 1948 Merle Thomas and A. W. Shaw jointly owned the Thomas Garage and sponsored the General Motors line of automobiles, trucks and appliances. Nick became the top salesman and worked there 13 years (1960). He also drove a taxi when required.

From 1961 to 1974 he worked for Leonard Thompson as front-end man at Twilite Esso Service and also operated a school bus. He was a member of the Vegreville Fire Brigade from 1939-1972 and President in 1950.

He joined the Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks in 1940 and is a life member. A founding member of the Alberta Wheat Pool, he was presented with a plaque in 1973.

Nick curled a few seasons and attended hockey and baseball games when his young sons played. He made a few trips to Edmonton Oiler games when son Dennis played with the team.

In 1944 we became members of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of St. Vladimir when the Reverend Chrustawka was the parish priest. I joined the Ukrainian Orthodox Women's Auxiliary with Mrs. Emil Zaseybida as President and the church choir directed by Mrs. John (Myrosia) Decore. I was a correspondence secretary for five years and president of the U.O.W. in 1965 and 1966.

I was Chairman of Ukrainian Orthodox Ukrainian School from 1962-1974 and teacher for 12 years, also presenting 19 Ukrainian concerts. I taught Sunday School in 1952 and was director of the Ukrainian Youth Club.

I belonged to the Home and School Organization and the Vegreville Handicraft Guild, and also was an instructor for one year in drawnwork.

In 1954-1955 I was a lady director with the Vegreville Exhibition and an exhibitor for many years.

In May 1953 I became a member with the Order of the Royal Purple, Vegreville Lodge #125 and was elected Honored Royal Lady (President) for the 1969-1970 term. I was appointed by the Supreme Honored Royal Lady (National President) Lillian French of Hanna, Alberta, as District Deputy in 1975, and served District #8, which included lodges in Mundare, Vegreville, Mannville, Vermilion, Marwayne and Lloydminster, two years in succession until 1977. I have attended 10 Supreme Lodge Conventions in different cities across Canada, from Vancouver to St. John's Newfoundland. I have a 21-year perfect attendance record and received a Life Membership Certificate in May 1978.

I curled a few years but the responsibility of home and family did not allow many pleasures.

Kay, Richard and Katherina

Mrs. Katherina (Giebelhaus) Kay came from Norka, Russia with her parents and brothers (Adam and John G.) at the age of 12, in 1898, to the Stony Plain district.



Katherina and Richard Kay, 1952.



Mrs. Katherina Kay, about 1907.

At age 15-16 she worked for a family at Spruce Grove, milking cows and baking bread. Wages at the time were \$8.00 a month.

In 1905-06 the families moved to the Martins District, but Katherina went to Edmonton to work for Mrs. Cross, then for Mrs. Bulyea at Government

House, whose husband was Alberta's first Lieutenant Governor.

Katherina met Richard Kay in 1910. They were married in December 1911 and lived in Calgary for a year and a half. They moved back to the Vegreville district in 1913 buying a $\frac{1}{4}$ of land — SW 2, 51, 15. Once Richard had a run-away with his team, while bringing a load of lumber home. Luckily George Cole came along on horseback and brought Richard safely home, with his broken leg.

Mr. Kay served as Councillor for 6 years in the M.D. of Patricia, and was on the local school board for two years. He was Elder and Sunday School Superintendent for many years at the Salem Reformed Church (Salem United). He was also one of the first farmers to make sure that his wife had running water in the home.

Mrs. Kay opened her home and was Mother to many teachers of the Ideal School, who boarded there. The couple farmed there until 1943, when they sold their land to their nephew Wm. A. Giebelhaus, and retired to Edmonton. After Mr. Kay's death in 1963, Mrs. Kay remained another 3 years in her home before selling it and returning to Vegreville.

At present Mrs. Kay resides in the Homestead Lodge where she is still enjoying good health. Her countless nieces and nephews and their families, and many friends share an enthusiastic admiration for this energetic, gracious lady in their midst.

Kelly, Bob and Jean

by Jean Kelly

Bob Kelly, one of seven children, was born in Calgary in 1917. He was the son of George Edmund (Ed) Kelly and Amy Kelly. Bob's father was born in Edmonton in 1886 and his mother was born in Port Townsend, Washington, in 1892. They were married in 1911 in Edmonton.

Bob's grandmother Georgiana Foisey (later Kelly) was a niece of Father Lacombe, who brought Georgiana out west from Providence, Rhode Island, in 1884, to teach school to settlers' children in St. Albert.

During the children's early years, Bob's family resided in Red Deer and Stettler, later returning to Calgary and finally to Edmonton about 1950. As a youth Bob won the Calgary Championship in the 147-pound amateur boxing contest.

Bob, his father and grandfather, were all involved in the electrical business, Bob's grandfather being a director of Edmonton's first Electric Light Plant Company. Bob's dad was instrumental in bringing the first electric power to many Alberta towns. He built the first transmission line from Vegreville to Mundare in 1928. Both Bob and his Dad worked in



Facing camera — Jean and Bob Kelly on the occasion of Bob's retirement from Alberta Power Limited after 41 years of service, 1979.

the Vegreville area in 1930's, surveying and constructing power lines for Canadian Utilities Limited. Bob recalls all the horses and buggies in use as transportation at that time.

In 1938, Bob started permanent work with Canadian Utilities Limited, and was sent to Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, to work, remaining there until 1940, when he joined the R.C.E. and served in Europe for the duration of the 1939-1945 war.

In 1940, while in England, he met and later married a London girl — Jean Marriott.

On returning from overseas, Bob and Jean settled in Prince Albert until 1948, when they were transferred to Drumheller, where a son, Rob, was born that same year.

In 1950, the company transferred Bob to Vegreville, Bob working as a service supervisor, and later as chief electrical technician, being responsible for the upkeep of substations in a large area from Cold Lake in the north, to Lloydminster in the east. Bob retired in 1979 after 41 years service with Canadian Utilities Limited (now Alberta Power Limited).

Jean Kelly was born in London, England, in 1921, daughter of a Londoner, Joseph Herley Marriott and Nellie King Marriott. Jean's father was a navy man who saw service in the 1914-1918 war. Jean's mother's family lived in the little fishing village of Findon in Kincardineshire in N.E. Scotland (where



Four of the British war brides who settled in Vegreville: (l. to r.) — Marj Walker, Pat Kuziek, Val Ponech, Jean Kelly, 1954.



Canadian Utilities Limited Line gang at Hairy Hill. (l. to r.) — Bill Stuparek, Simpson, unknown, John Kelly, Bob Kelly, unknown, 1936.

the name Finnan Haddie originated). Jean had always resided in London, and during the 1939-1945 war, spent many a night listening to bombs dropping from enemy planes.

In 1945, three years after her marriage to Bob, Jean, together with many other war brides, embarked at Liverpool en route to Halifax and then by train to Calgary. Bob still being overseas, Jean was overwhelmed by the warm welcome extended by the Kelly family.

The first impression of Canada was of a vast country compared to Britain, and a seemingly endless blue sky. After wartime, dark bread and food rationing, Canada appeared to be the land of plenty.

In 1968, Jean commenced work as librarian at the Vegreville Public Library, and still holds this position in the new library premises in the Town Administration Building.

Son, Rob Kelly, obtained his schooling in Vegreville, graduating with honours from Grade 12 in 1966. Attending the University of Alberta, he obtained his B.A. and B.Ed. and taught school in Edmonton for several years, later going to a teaching position in Banff, where he is at present. He is an avid world traveller and mountain climber.

Kennedy, David Andrew and Ellen Jane

by Irene (Kennedy) Shaw

David Kennedy came to Vegreville in 1906 with a Landseekers' Excursion and purchased a half-section of land (W 14-52-14) three miles east of Vegreville where he remained most of the seventy-four years of his life. His wife, the former Ellen Jane Montgomery, was a worthy help-mate for her pioneer husband and whatever regrets she may have

felt in leaving their Ottawa Valley home at Carp, were overcome in the task of making a home for their three children, James Harold (12 years), Irene Mary Margaret (8 years) and David Walter (5 years).

David Kennedy was an ardent horseman and the four heavy draft Clydesdales he sent out in his car of settler's effects provided the motive power to turn the virgin soil. New basic farm machinery, together with household effects both old and new were brought to form the nucleus of the new farmstead. Much of the lumber for the large family home he hoped to build, together with other materials, also numerous trunks and boxes, left just enough room for the hired man, Tom Sugraham, a recent immigrant from England, who took care of the horses and the collie dog.

All survived the rough and monotonous journey in good health. With the purchase of a buckskin saddle pony and a little black mare, the Kennedy family was launched on a new life in Alberta. Seven years passed and World War I had broken out before the Kennedy dream of a fine brick house was realized, replacing their first small home. It stood as a landmark, still in good condition until destroyed by arsonists in 1971.

For the children, Alberta was a place of freedom and joy. Ponies to ride, and miles of unfenced country to explore were their greatest pleasures. Hailstorms, drought and early frost may have been tragic for the adults but touched the lives of children very lightly and if they were under-privileged they never knew it. They delighted in the first crocuses, delicious wild strawberries, wild roses massed along the roadsides, baby ducklings on the ponds, the unforgettable fragrance of wolf willow, delicate shoot-



Major Harold Kennedy and his wife, Bertha (nee Jennings), 1940.



The Kennedy family just before Harold went overseas, June, 1916.



Threshing on the farm of D. A. Kennedy, 1913.

ing stars and ladies' slippers in the lowlands, the splendor of tiger lilies in late summer, and the flavor of saskatoons and chokecherries — all new to Ontarians. They gathered buffalo bones and skulls to mark half-mile points on the trail from town. The cattle they herded on the open prairie followed the deep grooves of buffalo trails to their watering place on the Vermilion River, for this was true buffalo country as recorded in the writings of George McDougal, missionary-explorer.

David Kennedy was a man of fine public spirit. He served as Trustee and Secretary-Treasurer of Highlow School District for a number of years, also as Councillor of the Local Improvement District, and was the first chairman of the Council of the Municipal District of Norma. He was instrumental in laying the foundations of the co-operative movement in Vegreville by active participation in the United Grain Growers and the United Farmers of Alberta. His long service on the Agricultural Fair Board was recognized by an Honorary Directorship and on July 27, 1941, the official opening of the fair was postponed

out of respect for his funeral. (He was predeceased by his wife in 1934.)

Mr. and Mrs. Kennedy were of Irish parentage and shared the wit and warm-hearted geniality characteristic of their race. The Kennedy house became known for the warm hospitality it offered. Many a lonely bachelor and homesick young teacher were drawn to its bright fireplace and felt at home.

Early records of Vegreville Methodist Church refer to Mr. and Mrs. Kennedys' active participation therein.

One of the greatest hazards encountered by the



D. A. Kennedy's house built in 1914.



Mr. and Mrs. Chas. E. Shaw. About 1940. (See p. 811.)



Kennedy-Jenning's Wedding, 1923.



Wallace Kennedy and Kathleen Shaw wedding, Sept., 1941.



Golden wedding — Floyd and Irene Shaw. Left: Vern and Carol Miller. Right: Gordon and Mary-Jane Shaw, Dec. 25, 1973. (See p. 812.)

early settlers was prairie fires which often swept across the great open spaces. Some were caused by careless settlers burning brush or stubble, but often the railway locomotives were responsible. A tang of smoke in the nostrils, a grey billow on the horizon, were danger signals which brought men and horses hastily to ploughs, making fire guards and “back fires” to move slowly against the wind. One disastrous fire set by a Grand Trunk Locomotive swept in a northwesterly direction, took the life of a young girl in its path, and approached the town of Vegreville. Scores of volunteers went out to subdue it but it had burned almost to the angle of the CNR and the Vermilion River before it was brought under control.

Harold Kennedy, at the age of 19, joined the 3rd CMR's and served overseas throughout the First World War, the last year as an Observer in the R.A.F. When World War II broke out, he again volunteered and became Deputy Provost Marshal of M.D. 13. He died in B.C. in 1955, survived by his wife, the former Bertha Jennings.

Irene Kennedy became a teacher, teaching in three rural schools and in the city of Vancouver.

Wallace, though crippled by polio in early childhood, graduated from Alberta College in 1924 and eventually became Secretary-Treasurer of the Vegreville School Division. He is presently enjoying his retirement in Vegreville with his wife, the former Kathleen Shaw.

A cousin of the Kennedy family, Percy Walker, came out from Ontario in 1909 and made his home with them for some time. Though quite inexperienced, he bought a team of oxen, a plow and a tent and sought work doing custom breaking. One of his first contracts was with the CNR to plow fireguards on both sides of the railway track from Vegreville to Lavoy; a task which took most of the summer to complete. Later, he became a bookkeeper in Charles Gordon's Lumber Office where Wesley Headrick was a co-worker until both went overseas. After the war he managed a lumber yard in St. Paul until his appointment as Post Master in Vilna. On retirement he moved with his wife and two daughters to Edmonton. He died in a nursing home in Calgary in 1978 at the age of 93.

Another Kennedy cousin, Lila Walker, also made her home with them and later worked as a legal secretary in the office of Mr. McLaren, in Vegreville, following which she taught in McTavish Business College in Edmonton and eventually established “Miss Walker's Business School” in Ottawa where she resided until her death.



Kinniburgh Family, 1952.

(L. to r.) — Mrs. Lurena Kinniburgh (mother), Agnes Kinniburgh (John's wife), Margaret Murtha (John's sister), Miss Margaret Kinniburgh (John's aunt), Della Kinniburgh (relative from Iowa), Mortimer Kinniburgh (father), John Kinniburgh (son of Mortimer and Lurena) holding niece Ellen Murtha, Ted Kinniburgh (John's brother).

Kinniburgh, John and Agnes

I, John Kinniburgh, opened Kinniburgh Jewellers in May of 1949 in a 10 foot by 10 foot space in the old Co-op Store Hardware section. After doing business there for several months, Kinniburgh Jewellers moved onto Highway 16 in the Prince Edward Hotel building next to the alley where it was robbed on Valentines Day 1950. On June 24th of that same year, I married Agnes Pahl whom I met formerly while working in Edmonton.

In the fall of 1950, we moved our store around the corner onto Main Street and relocated again in the Prince Edward Hotel between the office of the Hotel and The Toronto-Dominion Bank of that time and in front of the Hotel Cafe. Following this, our two lovely daughters were born "Gail" in 1953 and "Dawn" in 1954.

After leaving Vegreville in the fall of 1955, we moved to Coronation where our son Lee was born in 1957. Upon leaving Vegreville, we sold our business to Stu and Dorothy Currie who moved their business location across the Street to the corner of Highway 16 and Main Street.

In June of 1963, we moved to Vermilion and purchased the long established jewellery store from the late Ed and Eva Corley.

Kirkwood, S. A. and Family by Marj Henderson

Mr. and Mrs. S. A. Kirkwood came to Canada from Abilene, Kansas, in 1902. Mary Kirkwood's parents, Robert and Sarah Lank, and son Howard



64th anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Kirkwood, 1949. Mr. Kirkwood 87, and Mrs. Kirkwood 86.

Lank and their families arrived at the same time. They arrived in Edmonton in 1902 and resided there until 1907 when they came to Vegreville, homesteading in the Park Grove District. Living east of Charlie Fuller's place where William Cunningham used to live in 1916, they lost their home by fire and moved to the Oigny place, later owned by William Scritsmier.

They had seven children who received most of their schooling at Park Grove School. They were namely: Robert, Bertha (Mrs. Harry Payne), Rilla (Mrs. Avery Davies), Eunice (Mrs. Herb Davis), Mildred (Mrs. Arthur Henderson), Marie (Mrs. William Brown), and Albert.

When most people think of retiring now, Mr. Kirkwood, son Bob, son-in-law Avery Davies, and father-in-law Robert Lank, who was near 90 years of age, took up homesteads in the Ardmore area. They lived there long enough to obtain the title. They then moved to Vegreville, residing here until their demise. Mrs. Kirkwood was 87 and Mr. Kirkwood was 94. They lived a long and full life. The only living member of the family is Mrs. Marie Brown of Kelowna, B.C.

Kirkwood family heirs, still in the Vegreville area, are Ernest (Bud) Davis and family, living on the home farm, and Gordon and Donald Henderson and their families.

Kitlarchuk, Mike

Mike Kitlarchuk was born in Vegreville in 1914; his parents were John and Tillie (nee Dutka) who farmed at New Kiew. Mike attended Vegreville Public school and took high school at St. Martin's, boarding with his uncle, Nick Dutka. Mike worked on the farm at home and for other farmers until World War II when he joined up in 1940, serving overseas through France, Holland, Belgium, and Germany with the North Nova Scotia Highlanders. Mike says he never wore a kilt because those tall fellows didn't have a skirt short enough for him. He returned in 1945 to farm south of town (formerly Mike Mar-



Mike Kitlarchuk, patient in Minburn Auxiliary Hospital, Vegreville, who volunteered his spare time to work in the hospital canteen. Mike died suddenly Sept. 25, 1979.

tyniuk's land); then he moved to town and worked at NADP and Raydon's, until illness forced his retirement to the Auxiliary Hospital, where he spends his time visiting and teasing the staff. Mike has two children: Rosemarie Kercher of Edmonton, and Jerome (married Bev Skoropad) of Vegreville. Still living in this area is Mike's brother, Bill Kitlarchuk, who has retired to town and is married to Lee (nee Mandruk) in 1976.

Kitto, Joseph Stewart and Mamie by Lorraine (Irvine) Breton

Stewart Kitto was born in Chinguacousy Township, Brampton, Ontario, in 1876. In 1898 he left for Alberta to Edmonton and the N.W.T. He was the third child of a family of nine. His father, Aranauh Kitto, was one of the farmers who held the crown deed to their farm in Peel County. The Kitto family originally came from Cornwall, England.

Stewart was followed West in 1901 by his brother Frank, who settled in Edmonton and his sister Clara, (later Mrs. Wallace Thomas), who settled in the Strathcona area.

In March, 1905, a younger brother, Morcomb, came to Alberta and filed a claim to a homestead in the Vegreville area. Stewart's homestead was in what was to be known as the Park Grove area.

One of Mrs. Thomas' daughters, Genevieve, taught school for two years at Park Grove.

Stewart Kitto was married to Mamie Woods. Mamie taught Sunday School in Park Grove, and my cousin Glenna (Kitto) Patch had mentioned going to Sunday School with her once, and said how interesting she made it. Christmases and New Years were a

great ordeal, trotting back and forth to Morc Kitto's and then to Stewart Kitto's place. In the early times, they would go on foot.

Mamie Kitto, as I have been told, was a terrific cook and sewer . . . she had a bedroom upstairs where she nearly always had a couple of rugs set up to be hooked. I do not know too much about my Granddad Stewart, as I was not even born when he passed away in 1932.

My Grandmother, Mamie Kitto, was always busy sewing things for me when I was little. I still have a crochet dress which she made for me and I have kept it for our daughter Heather who also wore it with great pride.

Mamie Kitto had a small house in Vegreville where I stayed with her when I started school, up until I was ten years old. Every weekend we would go out to the farm to help with duties there, as my father and mother took over the farm shortly after my Granddad's passing. Mamie was born in 1895, and passed away in 1944.

Kitto, Morcomb Real

by Glenna (Kitto) Patch

Morcomb Real Kitto — August 21, 1896 — March 8, 1961.

March 11, 1905 — "Left for Alberta — Maude, Ethel, Pa and Art at Station."

This is the first entry in my Father's diary — a diary that he was to keep throughout the next 56 years.

This young man of 18 years, the second youngest of a family of nine, was leaving his parental home in Chinguacousy Township, Brampton, Ontario, and heading West to homestead. The Kitto family was of U.E.L. stock — having originally come from Cornwall, England — and held the crown deed to their property. It was a large house with much activity as the family members went back and forth furthering



Ethel and Morc Kitto and Jim Richardson — harvesting, 1928. Alex Ziegler bought the combine and used it a couple of years. It is now in the Fort Saskatchewan Museum.

Crop grown in 1905
 8 acres oats 48 1/2 bu per acre = 347 bu
 8 " Barley 26 1/2 " " = 212 "

Total 559 bushels
 Cost of thrashing 118.900

Crop grown in 1906
 15 acres wheat 36 bu per acre = 540 bu
 14 1/2 " Oats 56 " = 794 "

Total 1334
 Cost of thrashing 146.800

Crop grown in 1907
 16 acres wheat 87 1/2 bu

19 " Oats 760

10 " Barley 190

Total 1275

Cost of thrashing 251.00

End of 1908

15 acres wheat 155 bu

10 " Oats 625 "

Total 780

Cost of thrashing 845.25

End of 1909

14 acres wheat 310 "

31 " Oats 1260

7 " Barley 175

3 1/2 " Green Oats

Total 1745

Cost of thrashing 572.25

Crop 1910

35 acres wheat 512 bu

22 " Oats 392 "

6 " Barley 114 "

Total 918

Made entry for homestead April 25 1905

Received entry May 5 1905

Lived on it stayed June, and from Nov 1st to

First year cropped 10 acres, broke 15 acres

Paid for improvements 80.00

Improvements 1st year Breaking 15 46 "

November 1905 siding for shack 15.80

Labour putting it in 16 1/2 "

February 1906 digging well 25 00

W. Lee & Co lumber for curb 30 00

March 05 built stable 85 00

March 1906 W. Lee & Co 40.00

April 1906 W. Lee & Co 15.00

July Broke 15 Acres 46.00

Oct. Bull grainy cost 130.00

June 78 Fence 30.00

May 16 08 applied for patent

August 6 08 Received recommend for patent

June 29 09 Got certificate of title

Farm accounts, 1905-06.

their education and going to their respective employment. "Morc", as he was known, had been preceded to the West by his brother, Stewart, in 1898 (who had filed a claim in what was later known as the Park Grove area); his sister, Clara (Mrs. Wallace Thomas) who settled in Strathcona; and his brother, Frank in 1901. Frank was working for the Hon. Frank Oliver in the Edmonton Bulletin. Later, because of poor health, Uncle Frank took up surveying, obtaining his D.L.S. in 1908 — which led him into almost every remote corner of Northern Canada. He was in Dawson City for four years and made seasonal trips to the northern frontiers — by canoe, saddle, dog-team — and published many departmental books on the North. How well I can remember looking forward to Uncle Frank arriving on his way back East — and the tales he had to tell.

Dad arrived in Edmonton on March 15, 1905, and after spending a few days with his sister, started

to Vegreville. It was a lengthy trip — to Fort Saskatchewan the first day, the second as far as Swans (which was the usual nightly stop-over) — saw where a man had been murdered — and finally got to Uncle Stewart's the third night. The night sky was lit with prairie fires, rather an awesome sight for a young single homesteader.

The month of March was a month of "firsts" — helping Uncle Stewart and Harry Payne with wood cutting, opening the potato pit to find them all rotten, first night to stay alone, first baking of bannock, first flock of wild ducks, first coyote, first fire — almost burnt his shack, first letter from home and the first letter written home, first trip to Vegreville (Old) which was a long hike by foot or cart — a long way to go to post a letter, at least 9 miles. His homestead was a mile north and a half mile west of New Vegreville.

I can remember Dad telling me how he some-

Oct.	1906	Expenses	\$	c
10		Pd. R. McNitt part of Thrash bill	28	50
		" Vegreville Lumber Co	7	25
20		" Millar & Co groceries	2	00
21		" Stewart on account	10	00
27		" Mrs. Dowell for bdy. thrashers	7	00
		Small expenses for month	3	35
Nov 6		Pd. Stewart	5	00
		" R. & R. overalls & overshoes & brass	3	50
Nov 17		S. H. A. Barber for 5 pigs @ \$3.00	15	00
" 18		" Miller and Co. - rubbers	2	25
" 19		" Reid & Rose mitts	1	25
November		Groceries for month	6	10
		Stewart Beef	4	00
		" Chop for pig	4	00
Dec		1st Buck's oats 75 @ Oats 35 =	1	10
" 6		Pd. to Frank's acc. Canadian Bank of Mon	80	00
" 15		Ticket to show	25	00
21		Souvenir of Vegreville	75	00
		Renewal to Newspapers	1	25
26		C. M. Jait. C. M. Jait	2	00
20		Gave Stewart to pay Thrasher Lumber	5	00
		Small expenses for month	00	00
Jan	1907			
		H. Payne	1	00
		Small expenses for month	1	35
"		Paid Stewart to even acc.	2	00
		Expenses for month	4	00
Mar.		9 Chop for pigs & hedges	2	00
		Groceries for month	5	50
		Pork	6	00
		P. L. L. L.	13	00

October	1906		\$	c
October 15		63 bu oats @ 200 =	12	60
"		48 1/2 Wheat @ 480 =	23	00
" 16		55 1/2 " @ 48 =	26	65
Oct 22		Received from Ed. Robertson for pig	14	00
Nov 8		87 bu Oats @ 22 =	19	15
"		115 " " " =	25	95
"		103 1/2 " " " =	22	75
19		71 1/2 " " " =	15	05
Dec 1		70 " " " =	14	00
" 3		76 " " " =	15	20
" 4		85 " " " =	17	15
" 5		98 " " " =	20	30
" 6		96 " " " =	22	25
" 6		100 " " " =	22	00
17		From Geo. Robertson 1 month's wages	25	00
		3 loads straw @ 1 per load =	03	00
Jan	1907			
		2 loads straw @ \$1.10 =	2	20
		Received from Geo. Robertson	25	00
Feb 9		37 bu wheat @ 450 =	17	00
" 7		36 1/2 " " @ 490 =	17	90
" 43		Oats @ 2.3 =	10	00
		Received from Geo. Robertson	25	00
March		" " " " =	25	00
		" " " " =	22	00
May 1st		O. Chishwell, Rd. Strain	50	00
		First 30 from J. Smith for pigs	20	00
September		J. Cheques for road work	72	07
		Ind. Order for oats	15	00
November 1st		Regular for oats	15	20
Nov 19		10 bu Oats @ 250 per bu =	2	50
Nov 19		50 D. Fullon for 10 bu wheat @ 750 =	7	50
		Total	492	35

Farm accounts, 1905-06.

times went out to the barn to hear the horse and cow eating — for company.

March 30 — "Moved to my shack — homesick and lonely"

July 18, 1905 — "Disced in forenoon — picnic on townsite in afternoon"

The first year seemed to be an endless round of going between Uncle Stewart's, Harry Payne's and his own place — breaking, ploughing, haying, seeding, working on improving their shacks for warmth, building outbuildings, working on railway roads, pulling weeds, repairing harnesses, cutting brush; forever getting wood, cooking and cleaning and very little time for anything else.

August 20, 1905 — "Went to Vegreville Fair. Jack took 1st prize. Train came over hill."

He had heard the first C.N.R. train whistle the night before and on the 30th the train reached the

Vermilion River. What excitement that must have caused — the railroad and the new town site — the bridge and construction gangs moving in, the laying of rails and town being moved so much closer.

October 29, 1905 — "Walked to new town — 7 buildings — one store"



Stacking hay with sweep on Kitto farm. Early 1900's.

November 10, 1905 — “In new town — store, restaurant at feed stable, bank, butcher, barber, implement shop, lumber of first 2 houses.”

Now there were more people around and much more activity. Dad started working in town for Clements on the Bank of Commerce building — unloading lumber, bricks, etc. and the building was on! The railway station was started. Some of the people he worked for or with were D. McColeman, C. Gordon, T. McAmmond, Robarge, Holden. Church was being held at the parsonage.

February 3, 1906 — “Dug well as deep as I could throw the dirt out — eight and one-half feet”

Well digging was a real problem then.

February 4, 1906 — “Methodist Church opened. Attended two services.”

About this time more social life seemed to begin. “I see a pie social at Warwick and regular Church.” The Presbyterian Church opened on July 15, 1906. October 29, 1906 — “At hospital opening at night”

Christmas, 1906 was spent at George Robertsons. Temperatures were often 50 below. How he used to enjoy those Christmases. Skating seemed to become a favorite pastime about 1909 and dances a bit later. Some of the names running through this diary are Hub Worth, Stanton — that would be the auctioneer who he sometimes clerked for, Fultons, Colby, Browns, Richardsons, Ballard, Goads, Ashlees, Lanks.

Januar, 13 — “Sold 7 pigs, 1510 pounds at 8¢ per pound”

December 31, 1915 — “Dave Rose’s Livery stable burned out”

December 20, 1921 — “Married and left for the East, 11:45 p.m.”

Dad wrote daily in his diary — but not lengthily! Dad married Ethel Richardson, the eldest daughter of Jim Richardson who lived on Prairie Lodge and so started another era of his life. Mom’s folks had homesteaded in the Hairy Hill area in 1884, as a matter of fact, Mom was one of the first, if not the first, white babies born in that area and with the nearest doctor at Edmonton she was delivered by a crippled Indian lady. Mom remembers the lunches her mother used to pack in a crock for the girls to take to school. They drove a buggy, and they also all rode horseback. What a marvelous change this must have been for Dad — after all those years of batching. I’ve always said — put Mom in the Sahara desert and in an hour white curtains would be on the windows and home set up! I was born at Prairie Lodge, we were still living in the little house and we were crowded, but such good times we had — and how much company we had — must have been standing room only.

Stones put in the oven to keep us toasty warm in the sleigh box as we went off to Uncle Stewart’s for Christmas or New Years — we alternated yearly — sometimes if it was desperately cold Dad would tie the lines and get down out of the wagon and those horses never failed to take us home. The summer picnics — picking wild berries, canning vegetables, and storing vegetables for winter. When we had hard snow banks Dad would dig a cave for me.

My sister Hazel was born in the R.M.B. hospital. By this time we had a new large house and it was about this time that the depression hit and dollars were in very short supply; but people — friends and family — really seemed to get together and have good times, without spending too much money — card parties, picnics, Church suppers, ball games, etc.

The farm was sold in 1946 and Mom and Dad and Hazel spent several years at Haney, B.C. and in 1949 moved back to Brampton, Ontario, and bought the old Kitto farm — and Dad was back living in the house he’d left so many years before.

Hazel and her husband, Ray Vandaele live in Burnaby, B.C. with their three children — Richard, James and Linda.

Del and I live in Brampton on a portion of the Kitto farm; the rest has been sold. We have three children: Darlene (Mrs. Murray Wright), Brampton; Bonnie Lynne (Mrs. John Butcher) of Toronto; and Kevin Real at home — going to high school — and then there is little Miss Tara Wright — 3½ years old, our delightful granddaughter. Mom (Mrs. Howard King) lives in Brampton.

In February, 1961, Dad and Mom went to Vancouver. Dad was not in the best of health but he wanted to go West again — and he wanted to go by train so he could see more of the countryside. There is always such a strong pull to have worked and



Morcomb Kitto's shack. Stewart Kitto in doorway. About 1920.

struggled and to have seen a country grow and develop and have been part of it. The space, the long twilights, the blue and pink sky of a frosty winter evening, a fence covered with hoarfrost, the first crocus, pussywillows, frogs croaking in a slough, the aurora borealis, the first robin, fields of golden grain

Dad died in Vancouver and the last entry in his diary was written by my sister:

March 10, 1961 —

“Sun shining, crows cawing

Funeral 2 P.M. — most beautiful and deserving tribute.

Laid to rest at Brampton Cemetery.”

Knies, Louis

(excerpt from *Vegreville Observer*, Sept. 10, 1976)

The death occurred on Tuesday evening, September 7th, 1976, of Louis Adam Knies of Vegreville at the age of 91.

He was born at Sutton, Nebraska, in 1885, but moved with his family to Tacoma, Washington at an early age. When he was 14, the family moved to the Glory Hills district near Stony Plain where he married the former Miss Elizabeth Miller in 1910 and



Louis Knies' narrow escape, 1929.



Louis Knies' damaged truck, the “Red Baby”, after upset in ditch, 1929.

continued to live there until 1915 when he moved to the Old Vegreville district.

In 1921, because of his concern for his children's education, he moved to Vegreville and purchased the Central Garage. Later he disposed of his interests in the garage to take over the International Harvester Agency which he owned until his retirement in 1964.

Mr. Knies was an exceptional mechanic and was noted in the area for his ability and willingness to keep machinery in good repair for his many clients.

In addition to his many hobbies and interest in his family, Mr. Knies found time to work in the community and served for two terms on the town council.

He was a member of the Vegreville United Church, St. John's Masonic Lodge and the Order of the Eastern Star. Masonic rites were conducted at the funeral service held at the United Church on Friday, September 10, 1976. Rev. Bob Seal officiated and later interment was made in the Evergreen Memorial Gardens, Edmonton. He is survived by his loving wife Elizabeth, four daughters, Mrs. Hilda English of Edmonton, Mrs. Viola Frederking of Calgary, Mrs. Alma Wayman of Portland, Oregon, and Mrs. Esther Steininger of Calgary; also 5 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by one son, Clarence, in 1969.

Kolmatycki, John and Maria

The Great Pioneers

by Anne (Hayduk) Karcha (granddaughter)

In 1900 John and Maria Kolmatycki decided to go to a strange land where there were lots of trees and lots of land to work on. The agents talked them into going to Canada.

These ambitious people were my grandparents. They left their village of Malniw, Ukraine in Europe (now on the Russian border 1980). They left relatives, church, culture and all their friends.

Grandfather at the age of fifty-five was going to



(L. to r.) — Maria Kolmatycki, Pearl Hayduk (daughter), Anne Karcha (granddaughter). House built in 1903. Door behind was made into planks by axe and planer; no nails; Stove (r.) was bought in 1912.

start a new life. Along went grandmother at forty-five and four children, Harry twenty, Peter eighteen, Pearl nine years old (my mother) and Elias. Also with them came grandfather's brother Nick with his wife and stepchildren, and the Zuk and Babyn families. These people were very close to each other at all times.

In May 1900 they sailed for two weeks over the Atlantic, in a dirty ship, with cattle on one side and people on the other side. They ate potatoes that were cooked with peels. The children were seasick; no comfort at all.

All got off the ship in Halifax and then came by train to Strathcona (now Edmonton). They landed at the Immigration Building in June. They had a place to cook and wash clothes, while men went out to look for land where they could settle. That took lots of time since there were no roads. They had to go around sloughs, and made three times as many miles as they would have made going straight across. They took bread in sacks and drank slough water along the way.

Mosquitoes were very thick in those days.

When Grandfather and the other men came back, they paid ten dollars for a homestead and had to promise to build buildings, dig a well and put up fences within three years in order to get a contract for 160 acres of land. (In those days that was a lot.) I could never find out how they moved south of Mundare to SW 10-52-16-W4 in August. It was too late to plant a garden. So they had to eat everything made from flour. They baked on top of the stove or would boil flour mixed with water. They ate that all winter. The whole family talked about that hard winter for many years after.

They had to sleep outside in the open air until the men dug a hole about ten feet wide, twelve feet long, and about three feet deep. They cut railings about



John Kolmatycki, 1920.



Maria Kolmatycki, 1920.



Barn and storage building of John and Maria Kolmatycki, 1903.

twelve feet long. The branches were saved for bedding. Then they made a roof over that dugout. They put the ground on top of these railings, and that made a roof, a home where they lived during the first winter months.

During winter they were cutting down trees, feeling happy they had all the wood they needed, which was very valuable to them as all their lives they didn't have all that wood for building, firewood, etc. Big trees were used for building, so the bark was peeled off. Thin trees were saved for firewood, cut and split to use in the stoves. Men cut big piles of wood so it would last from one year to the next.

At first they cut wood around the house, and then further away. When they got horses or oxen, they went to cut trees on open land so as to save their own.

In 1922 there was coal for sale at two dollars a ton. In 1945 some people had oil stoves. In 1953 people close to the pipeline had natural gas installed. That was a great convenience.

The first spring my grandparents dug the soil up for a garden, by shovel. Hardly anything grew because the soil was not fine enough. It took three years, after the soil was properly worked, before they raised a good garden.

In 1910 the boys, Harry and Peter, went to work by Calgary all summer, and in the fall brought home a horse and a cow.

Grandfather started erecting his buildings. Women plastered with mortar made of a mixture of clay, straw, horse manure and water, which was trampled with the feet until it reached the proper sticky consistency. That was hard work. In winter the boys were helping with the building and in summer they went to work again. To build, they squared the logs on four sides; the corners were grooved so they would fit each other so well that they never came apart (no nails).



Woven willow fence; Right side — 1902, left side — 1922, by Kolmatycki family.

Roofs were made of a certain kind of long hay and that was a professional job; not every man could do it. Or you had a leaky roof which nobody wanted.

In 1901 a small house was built but in 1903 a big house was constructed, facing south; it had three rooms. The big kitchen had two big beds in it. The middle room was an entrance and storage room (no heat). The west room had two big beds, trunks, and a place for storing clothes. All rooms had clay floors. In 1912 they put in wooden floors. The cellar was used for storing large quantities of potatoes and vegetables. This house was warm in winter and cool in summer.

Doors were hung up by cowhide straps. Window and door casings were held in place by plugs (no nails). The walls were plastered with clay and white-washed inside and outside. I used to like the freshness of lime much better than paint.

Beds were first made of branches. Later the bed frame was made from wood railings.

Mattresses were made of hay stuffed in cloth casings. They changed hay once a month or every two months to freshen up the bedding. About 1918 they bought steel bed frames, springs and mattresses; quite modern for that time.

When visitors came, it was nothing to put hay on the floor and a feather quilt on top. We kids used to fight for a chance to sleep on the floor, as visitors were put in beds.

Brooms were made of certain shrubs, the handle being about three inches thick. Shrub brooms were still used in 1930 for rough work. The corn brooms were used on wooden floors.

In 1900 my grandparents, John and Maria Kolmatycki, drank slough water which was strained through white cloth. In winter, melted snow was used until they dug a well, which happened to be sixty feet deep. The cribbing was made from railings so it wouldn't cave in. This well was in front of our house and chicken coop. We had another well in front of the barns, which was handier for livestock.

The stove was made of clay; the top was a cast plate about twenty inches by twenty inches where cooking was done. It had an oven for baking bread. On the back of the stove there was a warm place for children to sleep. The men made a mud oven outside for baking bread. Was that bread ever good! Grandmother made lots of bread as there was not much meat. My grandmother and I baked bread at least once a week till 1960. Then I started to buy bread.

To make benches, they used an axe to shape a tree to make a plank twelve inches wide, four inches thick, and about ten to twelve feet long. The legs were made of saplings pegged into the plank (no

nails). Some of these benches were used till the 1940's.

In 1901 Grandfather John Kolmatycki walked to Edmonton for flour and salt. It took him six to seven days to make the return trip. Now in 1980 it takes one and a half hours by car on paved roads.

In 1905 the railway was built. Two of my grandmother's neighbours were visiting her. When they were leaving the house, they heard a train whistle about eight miles north. They all cried from joy. They knew they would have it so much better. They would not have to carry coal oil, matches, yeast and flour from Edmonton. The train would help them.

The first post office, called Beaver Lake, was eight miles southwest of Mundare. It was operated by McAllisters. My grandfather's niece, Jessie Kolmatycki, worked there for three dollars a year. But she learned to speak very good English. She worked for three years. Many people walked barefooted all summer. In winter they wore shoes but no stockings; pieces of cloth were wrapped around the feet.

The trip to McAllisters for staple items and eagerly awaited mail was made periodically.

After getting livestock, they needed fences to keep them from going astray. Men cut young willows and immediately wove them between railings and

posts, when they would bend easily. That made a very good fence for chickens, hogs, and even the houses. Rail fences were used for corrals, around haystacks, etc.

In the winter of 1900, my mother, as a little nine-year-old, got blind from malnourishment. Grandmother would walk about ten miles to Mrs. Baron's and beg for food, such as carrots, cabbage, potatoes and milk. Food restored the eyesight. My grand-



(L. to r.) — Mrs. Franchuk, Miss Franchuk and Mrs. Harry Kolmatycki. In background is a very long building about 120 feet long, partitioned into 6 different barns for small pigs, sows, horses, small calves, big calves and cows. All under thatched roof. Built in 1904, photo 1920.



Wedding of Elias and Katie Kolmatycki, 1939.

mother and mother always talked about that first hungry winter, especially when we would waste some food.

Kind neighbors gave my mother a few potatoes so that we could have perohy (dumplings) for Easter. A never-forgotten goodwill gesture!

John and Maria Kolmatycki brought two grindstones to be used to make whole wheat flour. Grandmother ground her wheat at four o'clock in the morning in the dark (no light of any kind) every day. The neighbors came to grind their whole wheat during the day. Some women came a long way to grind their wheat.

From the old country they also brought garden seeds, scythe, sickle, wooden washboard, axe, shovel, tools for building, clothing, sheepskin coats, and big feather quilts. Two big strong trunks held all these essentials.

My grandmother came from the Baydala family. Her mother died when she was eight years old, and she had to take care of the smaller children, so she didn't go to school at all. After she came to Canada at 45 years of age, she learned to read printed words in Ukrainian. Every Sunday she read mass (liturgy) aloud when she couldn't go to church. Later she also read a newspaper, when they could afford one. She had married a man who had no parents too.

My grandfather read and wrote in Ukrainian and Polish very well. So he read and wrote letters for other people who couldn't read nor write in those days. He had schooling in Ukraine.

Harry and Peter had school in Ukraine too. But the two youngest, Pearl and Elias, did not go to school, because they were too young. So grandfather taught them at home during cold winter months. Pearl was my mother and mentioned many times that grandfather told them, "You learn to read and write; it will be very useful in your future." My mother Pearl was not in school, not even one day, but could read and write in Ukrainian, Polish and English. She was a poor writer, but wrote many letters and we understood them all.

Moscow school was built in 1906. It was named after a man who came from Moscow, Russia. The school was built on his land.

A church, built in 1902 about eight miles north, was called the Monastery Church. It was a little church where people got their encouragement and spiritual strength to carry on.

All these people from different countries had to get along with each other. Language was the biggest problem. People were dead-scared of Indians, yet they were never bothered by them.

Harry married Mary Franchuk, had twelve children, lived on the farm and retired in Edmonton.

Peter married Annie Chanasyk, raised a family of six, started farming, was an agent in Vegreville, then Innisfree where he carried on in business for many years. He retired to Vernon, B. C. where he passed away at age 97, in 1979.

Pearl married Peter Hayduk, had a family of three, made much progress on the farm, and passed away at the age of 52, from cancer.

Elias married Kay Korpan, raised a family of three, lived in Mundare where he owned a jewelry shop, and retired there.

Grandmother was very thankful for having come to Canada, far from the theatre of war. Grandfather often longed for his native Ukraine — for the tree-ripened fruit, the warm climate, and the beautiful surroundings. Both grandmother and grandfather are resting in peace in the Mundare cemetery close to Highway 16.

In spite of hardships, my grandparents prospered and were happy they came to Canada.

Kostash and Svarich Families

by Wm. Kostash

The Svarich and Kostash families, related by marriage, came to Canada from the village of Tulova, Province of Sniatyn, Western Ukraine in 1900 on SS Arcadia, via Hamburg, Halifax; by CPR via Calgary to Strathcona and by ferry to Edmonton.

The Svarich family at that time consisted of the parents, Ivan and Maria, and children, all born in Ukraine: Peter, Anna, (married to Fred Kostash), Helen, Hafia, Andrew, Parania, Annie and Kateryna who was married and remained in the Old Country.

In the Kostash family there were two children: Helen, age three, and Harry, age, one year. Eventually, there were six other children: Elias, John, William, Marshall, Ladimer, and Peter. Peter died in 1921 at the age of seven, and John at age 39 in 1943.

Because of the political and social upheavals which characterized the history of Ukraine, genealogical records are hard to come by; hence little is known of the forefathers of the two families; other than that, after the abolition of serfdom in the Austro-Hungarian Empire in 1848, they became relatively prosperous peasant-farmers and were able to send some of their children to school.

On landing in Edmonton, the two families and several others from the same or neighbouring villages were directed to seek homesteads east of the present Lamont-Whitford district. Leaving their families in a rented cabin at Edna (original Ukrainian settlement) the men trekked eastward and filed on homesteads three miles north of today's Royal Park. The Kostash family settled on NE ¼-17-15-53, W4, and the Svariches kitty-corner to the northeast.

By fall, the first habitations were ready and the families moved in to begin farming in earnest. Hardships there were aplenty. The voyage across the ocean, in an immigrant ship where several hundred families were herded, more or less indiscriminately in the ship's hold, was not conducive to comfort or pleasure. Seasickness was rampant and only the diligent care of the sanitation crew prevented the outbreak of something worse.

The long train ride across Canada to Edmonton was equally tiring. But the real test of endurance came when the pioneers had to transport their families and the meagre household goods in wagons through roadless and often trackless bushland, over muskegs and swamps. Fording the creeks, swollen with heavy rains, added to the difficulties. But the supreme misery came from the swarms of mosquitos, pests which were unknown in the Old Country.

The help of all able hands — wife, mother, young sons or daughters — was needed to put up the first buildings, cut down the trees, plow up the sod, clear the roots, plant the garden, build corrals for the stock — the hardships whereof need no retelling.

After the essentials of living and farming were provided, the next needs were for a school and a church or a cemetery where the dead could be buried.

By 1905 most of the area north and northwest of Vegreville was pretty well taken up by the Kostashes, Svariches, Petruks, Fedoruks, Poraykos, Charuks, Cherniawskis, Didyks and others. This district was locally known as the Sich-Kolomea district after the two school districts which were organized in 1907 and 1906, respectively. They were one-room structures and the first teachers were brought in from eastern Canada, mostly Ontario. Practically all the elementary grades were represented; the school term was usually from about April to the end of September, punctuated by absenteeism for spring work, haying, and harvesting. The paths were cross-country shortcuts, converging on the school. No provision was made for driving the children to school; not until the year-long school term was established and roads made passable in winter.

The first teachers kept house in the attic of the school or boarded out. The latter was uncommon among Ukrainians because of language differences and the usual difficulty of accommodating the “professor” in a two-room house already full of children and adults.

The first permanent church in the district was built on Moskalyk's farm about four miles east of Mundare; and was known as Moskalyk's church. It was Greek Catholic and was served by priests, some of whom lived in the monastery just about two miles east of Mundare on present Highway 16.

It did not take long for the first settlers to adopt progressive methods of farming and better machinery like heavier steel plows for breaking up the prairie sod, seed drills, binders, early-ripening Marquis wheat, diversified crops and mixed farming. Prices for grain and farm produce were good. Even before World War I, some were already buying cream separators, incubators, brooders, and selling eggs, butter and cream.

Until there was enough land under cultivation to enable the farmers to buy their own threshing machines, large itinerant outfits from Saskatchewan or southern Alberta used to travel from farm to farm, very often doing two or three farms in one day. One of the earliest in the district was the Dennis outfit, of which Fred Kostash was the bagger man.

Much of the progress could be attributed to Peter Svarich who even in his twenties had a profound influence on his relatives and neighbours. He was well-educated, energetic, resourceful and possessed a dynamic personality. He encouraged all who would listen to adopt the ways of their new homeland, to learn its language, to send their children to school. To this end he was active in organizing numerous school districts in the area and acted as secretary until some younger man could take over. Although he had filed on a homestead, he did not farm very long. He sold it and moved to Vegreville where he set up a lumber business. This worked well for him as he was able to sell materials for the school houses, the new homes and barns the farmers were building. He earned his steam engineer's papers in Alaska and put this knowledge to training bright young farmers to run steam engines. He organized English evening classes which prepared the students for better jobs as nurses, clerks, secretaries, business agents, and teachers. His interest in horticulture is well-known in Vegreville.

Social conditions changed with the economic improvements. At first the pioneers sought diversion from the hardships of securing a decent living by gathering for family celebrations — mostly weddings — or religious festivals which brought the neighbours together, first in church and then at some home. Christmas, Easter, Pentecost, Ascension Day, sacred days honoring the Virgin Mary were welcome respite from the daily tasks. House raising, plastering, thatching bees, too, brought neighbours together.

It was not until a decade or two later, (1910-15) that the so-called “National” (community) halls began to spring up in the area. When economic conditions improved, it became obvious to the younger and better educated among them that something had to be done to raise the social and intellectual stand-

ards of the people. Originally these halls were reading rooms where newspapers and books were available. They also served for many years as drama clubs. Such a hall was built in Vegreville in 1914. Some old-timers may still remember a traditional Christmas pageant that was staged in the local fire hall. Peter Svarich played the role of Herod. In the course of the play his beard caught fire and the fire was put out presumably by the local fire brigade! The writer of this article recalls his earliest participation in a melodrama, "The Mother-Housemaid". He was about four years of age at the time, and his role was to be sad and, on cue, cry for his mother. This he did exceedingly well — in fact, that is all he did.

These community halls were, until the Second World War, centres for all sorts of activities: political meetings, lectures on education and farming topics, health workshops, dances, sports, socials and church suppers. The twenties were good years for the farmers. New land was broken up, farm holdings were expanded, new machinery and cars were acquired. At the same time, the younger generation, encouraged to get an education to find better jobs and a brighter future, left the farms in droves. Consequently, of the original families in the Sich-Kolomea district, very few have remained intact. Many of the farms have been bought up, either by the few families who decided to stay on the farms and increase their holdings, or by outsiders. The social structure of the district has, accordingly, changed drastically. Very few community halls remain, and many of the rural churches have lost most of their parishioners. The rural schools which, in the very early years, often served as centres of community activities, have disappeared. Rural population has declined. Except for the interest and attraction that it has for artists and photographers, the rural scene of earlier years is just a memory.

The Kostash homestead has suffered the fate of many others in the district. Elias, who farmed it from 1931, rented the land to the neighbours and then moved to Vegreville where he now lives. Of the farm buildings, only a large barn built in 1918 still remains in reasonable shape. The house, built in 1913, burned down about ten years ago. The remaining buildings, falling apart from old age, are rapidly being swallowed up by weeds, willows and caragana hedges, providing a natural habitat for skunks, weasels and mice.

KOSTASH FAMILY TREE (Blood line, excluding stepchildren)

Fred and Anna Kostash

HELEN (Fodchuk)

Marion (Lutzak) — B.Sc. in Arts

Ellen (Wattam) — B.Comm.

Kathy — B.Sc., Geology

Eugenie (Kwasney) — Public Health Nurse

Rosemary (Durward) — B.Sc.

Janice — Language Teacher's Certificate

Orest — Edmonton Technical School — Alice

Borys — L.L. B. — Angela

Paul

Lisa

Paula

HARRY — B.A., B.Ed. — Josephine (deceased)

Theodore — B.Sc., B.Ed. — Louise

June (Ladshaw) — B.Sc., Chemistry

John — B.S.A.

Theresa — B.A., Languages

Andrea

ELIAS — B.Sc., Electrical Engineering — Anne

Elizabeth — B.Ph.Ed.

Frederick (deceased)

JOHN — M.Sc., Mining Engineering — Victoria (both deceased)

Dennis — B.A. Sc., Chemical Engineering —

Ruth

Mark

WILLIAM — B.Comm., M.Ed. — Mary — B.Ed.

Myrna — M.A.

Janis — M.A.

MARSHALL — B.Sc., Chemical Engineering — Mae

Robert — M.A., History — Gail

Robert

John

Mary Lynn

Linda (Murdoch) — Nursing Diploma

Laurie

LADIMER — B.A., B.Ed. — Elsie

Reginald — Doreen

Darrel

Aurilee (Nordenlund)

Cherie

Kostash Family Sets Record With Six University Degrees

(Courtesy Edmonton Journal, May 7, 1936)

Everybody likes to set a record, a good record. And Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Kostash, Ukrainian farmers of Vegreville district, have set one for Alberta and perhaps for all Canada. An enviable record it is, too. One of which they are justly proud.

They are the parents of six sons, every one a university graduate. Five of the sons obtained their degrees at the University of Alberta, a new mark for the province, and one graduated from Marquette

university, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. All but the eldest were born in Alberta.

Mr. and Mrs. Kostash never went to university themselves but they determined that their sons would enjoy that advantage and they succeeded admirably. Their only daughter, now Mrs. Helen Fodchuk, imbued with the same spirit of higher learning, is the mother of a clever young woman, Marion Fodchuk, 20, an honors graduate in mathematics of Vegreville high school who has just completed her first year in arts at the university here.

It was in 1900 that Mr. and Mrs. Kostash, Sr., came to Canada from the Ukraine, homesteading in Vegreville district six years later. Recently Mr. Kostash, ready for a well-earned rest, retired from active farming but he still resides on the land.

Both youthful in appearance, the parents are well-read, modern in their viewpoint and quite able to stay with their degree-bearing sons on most subjects. For Mr. and Mrs. Kostash, university educated by remote control, have a grounding in arts, commerce and science, degrees in all three branches being held by their talented progeny.

The eldest of the sons, Harry A., was born in Austria in 1899 and graduated in arts from Alberta university when he was 22. He is now a school inspector in Athabasca district and is the only one of the boys who has married.

Elias L., now 35, attended university here for one year, in 1921, and then went to Marquette university, winning his bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering in 1927. But the lure of the land proved too strong for him and for the past five years he has been farming near Vegreville, using his scientific expertness on soil, tractors and his modern farm equipment.

John F., born in 1903, chose mining engineering as his vocation and was graduated from university in 1933 with his master's degree in science. He now holds an important position on the staff of Noranda Gold Mines, Noranda, Que.

William E., fourth son, born in 1906, just to mix it up a little, went into a commerce course and graduated in 1931 as a B. Comm. He is now principal of Hairy Hill school. And who do you think is assistant principal? Why none other than the sixth son, Ladimer L., who is 25 years old and is a B.A. and a School of Education graduate of 1934. He is also coach of Hairy Hill girls' basketball team, a sprightly aggregation that won out at the annual Edmonton exhibition tournament last year.

The fifth son is Marshall, born in 1909, who specialized in chemistry, graduated with his B. Sc. in 1935 and is now employed by the great International

Nickel company at its huge plant in Copper Cliff, Ontario.

The brilliant and unusual record of this pioneer Alberta family was not attained by an easy method. Like most worthwhile achievements there were sacrifice and hard work, much hard work, entailed, on the part of both the parents and the sons. They set their goal and would not be denied no matter how rough the going nor how discouraging the outlook.

And now with six fine, sturdy, university-trained sons taking their place in the world, helping to build a better Canada, Mr. and Mrs. Kostash are taking things a little easier with the contented feeling that they have done their best towards starting their children on a par with the best in the land.

Kryvonishka Family

by Fred Kryvonishka

This is the story of the Kryvonishka family who emigrated to Canada in the spring of 1906, from the village of Grimaliwka, one of the most ancient settlements located along the River Styr, near the town of Shchorowitshy, west of the city of Dubno and north of the city of Brody, in the province of Galicia, then part of Austria-Hungary.

There were few people in the village of Grimaliwka who could read or write, because the Polish landlords could not spare the peasants to go to school. Generations followed generations, sons succeeded fathers to plow, harrow, reap, and thresh. Daughters took their mothers' places at spinning wheel and loom. Through ever-shifting fortunes the land remained the property of the lord who gave life's sustenance to the peasants.

Bread came from the rye fields and meat from the cattle. Clothing and boots were made in the home by itinerant tailors and cobblers, out of wool from the sheep, flax from the soil, skins from the animals. All necessary things were taken from the earth. Peasants were at the mercy of the landlord and the weather, which brought fat years and lean years. They depended on no other power under the sun. The landlord's fiefdom was a world of its own, beholden to no one, except in time of war of the invader.

The village cottages nestled low and gray, timbered to last for centuries; under the same roof of thatched rye straw the peasants lived their lives from birth to death. Weddings and christenings were held, and ale was drunk. Life was lit and blown out within these same four walls of rough-hewn pine logs. Outside of life's great events little happened other than the change of seasons. In the field the shoots were green in the spring and the stubble yellow in autumn. Life was lived while the peasants' allotted years rounded their cycle.



Mr. and Mrs. M. Soloway, about 1970. Mrs. Soloway was formerly Mrs. Ivan (Marinka) Kryvonishka. Mr. Soloway died in 1972, age 86 years; Mrs. Soloway died in 1978, age 98.

And so it was, down through the years, through the path of generations, down through centuries. Then all of a sudden the new order of change came about and shook the village to its foundations. Russia had fought a war in the Far East and lost it. Revolution broke out, new conquerors gave new orders, newly-discovered powers came into use. Wagons moved without horses, ships without sails, and distant ports of the new world were brought closer together.

To a new generation, able to read, came the printed word of tales of a new land far away across the seas. A land which merged from the mists of the new domain and took on the clearing, tempting aspects of reality. The new land had soil without tillers, and called for tillers without soil. It opened invitingly for those who longed for a freedom denied them at home. The urge to emigrate stirred in the landless, in the debtbound, the suppressed, and the discontented. Others again saw no mirage of special privilege, or wealth in the

new land, but wanted to escape entanglements, and dilemmas in the old country.

They emigrated, not to something, but from something. In every village there were some men and women who obeyed the call and undertook the forbidding voyage across the great ocean. The discontented, as well as the aggressive, did not reconcile themselves to their lot at home. Those who stayed, the tardy and unimaginative, called the emigrants "dare-devils".

In 1905 Ivan Kryvonishka decided to get married to Marinka Mamchure and got permission from his landlord. Marinka was an orphan working in the same village for the same lord, but she had inherited an acre of land which she could sell to provide enough money for the passage to the new world.

In the meantime there were many ships making frequent trips to and from Canada, taking peasants away from the oppressed villages. Some had written back home telling of their experiences on the voyage and of the new start in the wilderness.

There was news of free land and an opportunity of being your own landlord in the limitless prairie where the soil would grow the same crops as at home. Then there was talk of anarchy and uprising against the Polish lord's tyranny. As the land taxes began to increase and the peasant land plots began to decrease, there was nothing else to do but to emigrate.

At first there were very few peasants that knew about this new country across the seas, because they were illiterate, as well, those that had gone overseas and had established themselves in new communities were unable to communicate and unable to write of their progress. But there were a few bold enough and enterprising souls came back home to recruit new settlers for the railway that was being built into the interior of Canada, and whose companies also had their own ships.

As soon as Ivan got married he went to see the local priest enquiring if it really was true that there was land for the taking in the new country across the seas. The priest pulled out a paper and showed him a picture of some of the settlers already there in dug-outs and stories of living under primitive conditions. There were pioneer hardships and misery where many people had died trying to eke out a living from the wilderness. But there was freedom to starve while he was his own boss.

In the village cottages, where food was scarce, to the peasants living according to inherited customs and traditions, such news and information were carried from neighbor to neighbor and village to village. The news went through the fields and forests, the germs of unrest like wild seed scattered by the wind. Once it took root in the landless village, where peo-

ple were the serfs to the landlord, their souls began to dream, unknown to others. At first the talk of leaving the village was in secret, then when some had left, all the friends and neighbors were surprised of the dare-devils.

It all started when Ivan was plowing the landlord's wheat stubble, struck a stone and broke the plowshare. The landlord bawled him out, saying, "I will make you pay for the damages done to my plow; I will take it off your forty crowns you earn a year." That was the beginning when he worried through many nights about his loss of wages. He had just got married and there was a child coming.

Ivan was not slow about making up his mind about leaving his job. He thought it was nothing but common sense and intelligent consideration to pack up and leave. He told his wife Marinka of the dream he had and a picture of the land overseas and its wheat-fields. There the peasants were free to do as they pleased. He saw himself carving axe handles and wooden teeth for the rakes, while Marinka carded hemp and spun flax. They stared at each other and smiled, talking endlessly of their new home. Then Marinka asked Ivan, "Are you really serious? Where is the money to come from? Now you are in debt to your landlord and will have to work out for it in the next year."

They were silent for a while, then a new idea struck Ivan, "Your stepfather, of course, he has five acres, let him sell one and give you some money as your dowry. With this we can have enough for transportation and still have enough left over for a new start." Marinka felt deep in her heart that her stepfather could never do this, because her stepmother would never allow it. Her stepfather had married her real mother when Marinka was only three years old, and then died. And now he married again. She knew nothing like that would ever be approved to finance a stepdaughter on a trip so far away. And then she may never see her again.

For two years they had been married. They had spent their youthful lives there, for no purpose. If they remained, they would struggle like this for the rest of their lives, slaving for their overlords who were becoming richer as they were becoming poorer, and at the same time, being worked out, limp and broken. No one would then thank them for having ruined themselves for no earthly good. No matter how much they struggled, toiled, saved and deprived themselves, they could never improve their situation there in Grimaliwka.

Ivan then made up his mind to enquire among the villagers who heard more about this new land. They said there were mountains with snow all year round, as high as one could see. Others said there were lakes

as big as the oceans, still others explained the land was as fertile, stone-free as anywhere in Galicia. It was only waiting for an industrious peasant to cultivate it by putting it to the plow share.

Marinka Kryvonishka lived to be 98 years of age when she passed away in Vegreville in 1978, while Ivan passed away some 10 years previously. They were married in 1905 and came to Canada as immigrants in 1906, homesteaded at Delnorte, now Innisfree, Alberta, cleared the land and raised 10 children, five of whom are still living.

Before her death Marinka recalled that in the beginning of their homesteading life there was nothing but wilderness between Delnorte and Edmonton. Ivan often had to walk to the city, which was then but a few shacks, to find work and get supplies such as flour, salt, sugar and staples which were not yet grown on the farm. The only means of transportation over a distance of some 100 miles was Ivan's own two feet with a gunny sack on his back. It took a week to make the trek, Marinka often said.

It was in the year of 1906 that Kryvonishkas decided to leave their native village Grimaliwka, in the province of Galicia, then Austria-Hungary. Their life in the village was that of, you might as well say, serfs. Ivan was a handy man of sorts and a teamster, while Marinka the helping woman in the landlord's estate of hundreds of thousands of acres. It was a poor living for the peasants. They found they had very little for their hard labor working for the lord and they never seemed to be in any really good health. Every day there seemed to be more and more work to be done without end.

For example, just to let Domka, the baby girl, play while Marinka worked in the fields and watched the child, first she had to dress her for outdoors, then get together blankets, diapers and carry the bundle to the fields and find a spot to put her and then go and perform her duties.

Marinka was orphaned when she was three years of age and was brought up by her step-parents. She had no opportunity to go to school, as she was required to support herself from childhood as subsistence laborer until her marriage.

Ivan was 28 years of age and Marinka was 26 when they made that momentous decision to emigrate to Canada, with only \$40.00 each in their pockets for transportation and expenses. They went to the city of Brody and arranged as steerage passengers from Antwerp, Belgium to Quebec and Chipman, Alberta. The steamship and rail fare was \$40.00 for the two of them, including a child. This left them another \$40.00 to carry them until Ivan found employment on Canadian Northern Railway that was then being

built to Edmonton. His first job was on the railway construction gang at Claysmore, Alberta.

Little did they know how short their money was for what was ahead of them in a foreign country, among strange people, speaking a language they knew nothing about. Their ways of living, working and thinking were entirely different from the other settlers.

They boarded the ship in Antwerp. This was no regular passenger ship, but a boat pressed into service to cash in on the heavy flow of immigrants from Europe to Canada. Berths had been installed in the bottom of the ship, with three tiers of bunks on each side and cots in the center aisles with over 750 persons thrown together.

Stormy seas hit the ship soon after they had left the shore, and after a few days the ship sprang a leak. The engines had to be stopped and repairs made, while the ship washed with salt water most of the time, swinging up and down. Everybody on board was seasick, and only eight toilets for people to relieve themselves. There were as many wash bowls on each side, and floors were cleaned only once a day, so the air soon became suffocating, and the stench almost unbearable.

Those who were able to remain on the deck in the fresh air were able to prevent sickness somewhat. But one had to be careful of not being washed off into the sea during the storm. Several people were found to be missing when the ship docked in Halifax nineteen days later of which three days were spent making repairs to the broken hull.

In Halifax the people were herded like a flock of sheep, into a waiting-room to get their immigration papers examined, which took a whole day. Then they boarded the train to Quebec, where they were packed like sardines, on wooden benches without a place to sleep, or even to stretch their limbs, until finally they arrived in Quebec, some two days later. They were then ferried across the river and taken to another train going west, which was already waiting for immigrants.

After travelling for some time, they finally came to Montreal, where a Catholic priest came on board enquiring if there were Catholics in the crowd. Those that were, he blessed and wished them bon voyage. There were many stops on the way west, until they came to Winnipeg. Although the city was much smaller than Quebec or Montreal, it was more cosmopolitan. The people were very friendly, but the city itself was dirty and foul. In fact, the immigrants were told that the city was a dumping place for most of those of Eastern Europe.

The railway station was the meeting place for people of every corner of the old country. One could



Ivan and Marinka Kryvonishka, posing in Edmonton, 1950. They are parents of Fred of Edmonton, Bertha Ruddick of Vegreville, Peter and Harry of Lavoy, and Bill of Vancouver.

easily recognize each nationality by the way they dressed and talked.

Every one was wearing their particular native attire. It was good to see that there were one's native people even that far west. It brought something very close to one's heart to think that they were not alone in this strange wild country.

The habits and cordial manners of one's homeland, for which they still had longing, were easily recognized. Many of those living in Winnipeg came aboard the train enquiring about the news from Europe.

The city of Winnipeg, however, was alive with exciting people and with new transportation of ox-carts and horses everywhere. One could sense the spirit of pioneering everywhere. Construction projects seemed to be going on everywhere. The railroad was in the developing stage and contractors were desperate for workers. Many were taken off the train by offers of 20¢ per hour, 10 hours a day and 6-day work week. Something that was unheard of in the old country. However, the board and room was \$20.00 per month and was taken off the payroll at the end of the month.

All immigrants aboard the train were excited and were relieved and settled, being sure now that they were embarking on a new life further west. After the train started, they heard that it was on its way to a city called Edmonton, but the railroad was not yet finished to the city. Chipman was the town a few miles away where they were to get off the train. However, there was a Russian soldier in the Army

during the Japanese war in 1905; he crossed the Austrian border, married a local village girl in Grimaliwka, then emigrating to Canada. They heard he homesteaded somewhere north-east of Chipman.

He had written letters that it was paradise desired by all farm people. So they were most anxious to see their destination as soon as possible. After about a week's travel after leaving Halifax, they finally arrived at the promised land. The train stopped and the immigrants were unloaded. It was already dark and late in the fall of the year. There was nothing in sight. Not even a railroad station. No one came over to meet them. It was already starting to get cold. After looking around for a while and getting used to darkness, they spotted a light in the distance to the north. After some consultation they decided to walk there and enquire about their friend from the Russian Army.

After walking for some time they neared what appeared to be a light in the dugout along the hillside. A dog started to bark and a man came out and chased the dog away. As they came closer, the man started to ask questions. Who are you and where are you going? They were lucky, because the man spoke their native language and knew someone else who was also from the same village in the old country.

After some pleasantries, he invited them into the dugout, prepared a supper of cabbage soup, potatoes, bread and tea. They were invited to stay overnight on the dirt floor, with some buffalo skins for cover. The next morning he prepared some porridge, bread and more tea. Then he invited them to come and visit some of his neighbors, who would probably know more about their village settlers. He said he heard there were some immigrants from around the villages of the city of Brody.

It took a whole day to travel by oxcart till they located one settler from the same village who welcomed them to stay over the winter and prospect for some suitable land to settle on. So they bid their new friend good-bye, and he went back to his dugout. The new location seemed to be quite comfortable. Their name was Tsilurik and they knew each other in Grimaliwka. This family had homesteaded a few years before and had already about 10 acres of land plowed up, from which a crop of potatoes, rye and some wheat was harvested. They had plenty of bread, meat, potatoes and cabbage put up for the winter.

They also had a cow and a couple of pigs and a team of oxen. This farmer was already pretty well settled on his homestead. He brought something like a thousand dollars from the old country and was the envy of the neighborhood about his prosperity. After living there for a few days, Kryvonishkas were not satisfied to sponge off a well-to-do farmer. They

always longed to establish a homestead of their own, the sooner the better.

After some more enquiry among the neighbors, they finally located their Russian soldier friend, Filimon Lehonky and his wife Palashka. They had a homestead about 16 miles north of the new town of Delnorte, now Innisfree. It was about a mile west of the Vermilion river. So at the earliest opportunity they moved in with their old country village friend and stayed there until spring. By then another child was born, a boy, Fedko.

During the winter months Ivan had some time to locate his homestead. It was a lovely spot between a lake and a creek. lots of hay meadow and about 60 acres of good top soil for cultivation. "What more do I want?" Ivan often said. "After what I left behind in the old ccountry, this is a paradise. I can live like a lord."

At the first opportunity Ivan walked to Edmonton Land Titles Office. It took over a week to go there and back as the crow flies, and filed on his homestead with the last \$10.00 he had left from the old country bank roll of \$80.00 his landlord paid him for his labour over the many years. At that time Edmonton did not look very inviting to stay in. It was nothing but a jungle of shacks on Jasper Avenue, spread between the CPR and CNR stations.

At that time the Alberta government had just been established, and set aside large areas of land throughout the province, and made available to settlers 160 acres of land for only \$10 filing fee. But there were conditions that each farmer would live on the land, pay a very minimum sum in taxes, or work them out by building roads, break a few acres of land every year and put up some sort of a house on his place.

Therefore without any further delay Ivan borrowed an axe and went out on his homestead and started chopping down the logs for his house. He also borrowed a team of oxen from a family named Petrowski and pulled out the logs to the house site. During the rest of the winter he managed to put together a small two-room house, with thatched roof and mud floor. He bought a cookstove, windows and most of the necessary things needed in the house on credit at the store in Delnorte. It took a whole month to fix the log house, to make it habitable. Marinka managed to get a hen and some eggs from the neighbors to start some chickens, also a weaning pig. The neighbors came in and John plowed up a few acres for a garden and seeded some rye and wheat. That was a start for the Kryvonishka family, with two children, a hen and a pig and also a dog that was still a pup, given by a neighbor.

As soon as the planting and seeding were done,

Ivan went over to Claysmore and got a job on the section gang, where he worked all summer, coming home each Saturday by walking some 25 miles to help Marinka in the garden and buying a cow for milk for the children. The earnings also helped to buy some clothing, a cow, more chickens and a bred sow. During the next winter they had more time to put their homestead in better order, such as building a barn, chicken coop and a pig pen. Marinka managed somehow to put up enough hay to last all winter feeding the cow.

The winter passed by very quickly. The new homesteaders were happy and busy. They spent most of their time improving. The house was small but fairly comfortable and warm. There was lots of wood in the nearby bush all dry and seasoned, for there were lots of prairie fires during the summer to burn out the scrub. They did not suffer from the cold weather, when in the winter the temperature dropped to 40 below zero. But the wind did penetrate sometimes during the storm and blizzard. In the morning there was ice in the water pail and sometimes the tea kettle was frozen solid by morning.

Ivan often said that he was the most free homesteader of the prairies. Everything he had, he got free on his homestead. His timber and his land, his log house, logs and boards, his fence made of rails and posts, slats, or stone. His bed from planks, hay, fowls of many kinds. He tanned some hides, or spun some wool to make clothes for the whole family. His dyes of many colors were made from various kinds of barks and plants. For his water, lights and fuel, there were no bills to pay. It, too, was all free.

He got his meat, a dozen kinds or more, in the woods. Free from license, he could catch many fish. He knew where berries were, nuts and fruit, free to all who cared to eat. Honey he found in trees. His tea was made from leaves and roots. His medicine, hair tonic too, he made from vines and herbs. His soap, was the best, made from fats and lye from ashes. He died a free man. His casket was made by friends. His grave was free, and freely dug.

Marinka, too, did her share of work on the homestead. Here is a day in the life of her chores: Cooking and washing were full-time jobs. Children and hard-working husband were a constant challenge. Here is how it was for her on the homestead, as she often described.

She always remembered her first celebration of her birthday, a beautiful Tuesday morning in May in the year of 1907. She was married for 3 years now and was the mother of 2 children, one girl and one boy, Domka and Fedko, whose ages were two and one. North of the homestead there was nothing but wilderness. There were some Indians camping during the

summer, but problems with them did not exist. Many visitors stopped at the homestead, mostly travellers discussing the news and enquiring about some new location to file for some land.

Her day started usually about an hour before sunrise. She had no clock, since clocks were too expensive for most of the homesteaders to own. Marinka awoke instinctively and began to get things underway so her husband Ivan and the two children could have their breakfast. And Ivan was on his way to work the fields before the sun rose too high in the sky.

She carried the water in from the well the night before. The fire in the fireplace had been banked low for the night and set roaring so that breakfast could be prepared. She had three important cooking utensils, an iron tea kettle, a three-legged skillet with an iron lid, and an iron pot which hung from a crane in the fireplace. The three-legged skillet, called a spider, was used to fry leftover corn meal mush which would be served with milk for breakfast, to be washed down with tea.

As soon as Ivan left for the fields, Marinka started to prepare for the large midday meal and for baking which was usually done once a week. Tuesday was breadbaking day.

The midday meal would consist of boiled meat with cabbage and turnips, or salt pork with sauerkraut and potatoes. The vegetables came from the storage cellar under the house, and the beef and pork had been slaughtered the previous October by the neighbor and preserved by being salted and spiced and left in a large crock, over the winter. Spices, sugar, salt and vinegar were used generously to insure keeping qualities. The beef and vegetables were put into the large pot and placed on the stove over the fire.

By the time Marinka had all her baking under control, it was noon and time for midday meal which was served in large wooden basins and eaten with wooden spoons. There were no forks, so the pieces of meat in the stew were eaten either with the spoon or picked up with one's fingers. Fresh bread was eaten with stew and again washed down with large tankards of tea or milk.

All serving dishes Ivan made of wood. There were no tablecloths. No plates. No knives or forks. There were no tumblers, no cups and saucers and only wooden mugs. There was no sitting down at the table. Each member of the family took what food they wanted and sat by themselves and ate it. Ivan said that all of his wooden items would last and last without rusting or breaking.

With the noon meal over, Ivan went back to his job and Marinka turned to do some of her own chores. She not only had to do some cooking and washing

and cleaning, but she made all the cloth used by the household, churned butter and pressed cheese, preserved food for future use with sugar, brine and smoke, or by storing it in the cool earth in the summer and freezing in the winter.

Ivan retted and dried the flax, sheared the sheep and washed the wool that neighbors had and took some for his labor. Marinka carded the fibres, spun the yarn and thread, dyed and wove. They both wore homespun clothes as a matter of course, until they were able to buy things in the store later on. The soap and candles used by the family were made by Marinka.

The meals and chores varied with the season. In the spring one would pick dandelion greens, brew a spring tonic, open the windows, start house cleaning, put seeds in the cold frame, clean the seed grain for spring planting.

In the summer, berries were gathered and preserved. In the autumn, canning and food storage for canning during the cold weather. Digging potatoes, cabbage, carrots and beets for the root cellar. It was during the winter that things got easier, for Marinka had only to cook, and daily chores were not as frequent. This being May, Marinka had only the kitchen and garden to worry about. Most of the plants in the garden were utilitarian. Vegetables fragrant and bitter herbs. The spices and herbs were also used for medical or medicinal purposes. The small herb garden was cultivated carefully as a kitchen necessity. Herbs, fresh or dried, were used in daily cooking to improve flavor, and because Marinka believed herbs added to digestion and health.

Marinka had done the wash the day before, so that she was free to do these other things. When she did wash, it was an adventure. The soft water was saved in a cistern from the rains that fell in April, or was hauled from the nearby creek. A large kettle was suspended over the fire in the fireplace by means of a pot hook fastened to a trammel hanging from the ceiling. A small kettle of ashes and water was boiling. It was taken off and settled with a dash of cold water, creating a lye. When the large kettle boiled, water from the small kettle was dipped into it and when stirred "flakes like snow came up and the water was broken up." The clothes were often pounded on rough stones at the creek or with a heavy smooth club in the winter, rinsed in the nearby stream and then placed on low bushes to dry.

Now the daylight was leaving and the sun was beginning to set. Marinka came into the house and supper was prepared. Often Marinka had cold meat and vegetables left from dinner, or else cabbage soup or potato soup if there was nothing else in the house. The family then sat down around the fire, Marinka

serving any mush and perhaps some baked potatoes with something to drink.

Usually Ivan spent his evening making and mending tools while Marinka did some spinning and weaving. The light came from the fire or from candles, or oil which was poured into a firm turnip hollowed out to act as a lamp base. After a hard day's work nobody stayed up too late and soon the family went to bed to get enough rest to face the following day. Ivan usually continued with his work around the forge barn, at grist mill, sawmill or fixing fences. Marinka would go to milk the cow, clean the house, and do any other tasks that kept her busy all day long, such as feeding the children, pigs and calves.

Of course, fresh water had to be brought into the house for use the following morning, wood chopped up, brought in and fire banked, so it would not go out during the night. It was considered a disgrace to go to one's neighbor for embers to start a new fire in the morning.

Many early homestead settlers made their own grain grinders of loose stone lying around the fields. This quern was a simple handmill. Grain was poured through a hole in the upper millstone, ground against the lower stone and thrown outwards to fall as meal or whole grain flour. There were no flour mills close by in the neighborhood in those days, so any home-made grinder was better than pounding the grain with a club. Since Ivan was a miller's apprentice in the old country, he decided to build a water-powered grist mill on a creek running through his property which facilitated easy construction. It took some time to fashion the mill stones out of solid granite, build the water wheel and all the mill machinery out of wood, and put up a dam with spillway and the bridge.

After the settlers learned about the new grist mill, many a homesteader's wife, being left alone at home with children, used to bring half a sack of wheat or rye and Ivan would put it through the process of grinding the meal. It was handy to do, of course, because all one had to do was to open the water supply that was dammed up. Then the power-wheel started to rotate the grindstones without any effort, while the mill owner worked in the field or at the forge or sawmill.

At first Ivan had to build a little forge barn where he earned some of the money needed around the farm. Not that he had great need for cash, as most things were traded then, but the forge gave him a chance to manufacture some of the machine parts he needed to build a mill. He made nails from wrought iron, by breaking off iron rods and hammering them out on the anvils.

The forge barn was the most important building to Ivan, for every tool was either made or repaired

there. The chimney was built of clay and poles and woven with willow, then plastered with hay and mud clay. Here the wrought iron nails were hammered out on the anvil. The nail rod was heated and hammered to a point. The rod was then dented at nail length, and snapped off. The head was hammered onto a nail, and shrunk by dipping in cold water and dropped out of the header.

On Mamchur creek, which flows from Hlus marshes, a man named Dmitriw owns the land there today. Dmitriw typifies in himself something that has kept the old mill site preserved, the power of endurance. Mamchur creek, named after Marinka's father, grinds no more. But down along the mill creek, many think that the preservation of the homestead business enterprise, for posterity, would be worthwhile.

Of the Kryvonishka family, five children still survive: Fedko, Domka, Vasil, Hritz and Petro. Hilko passed away when he was 20 years of age, then Pawlo who died of an accident when their house caught fire at Vermilion. He was only 13 then. Vasil who is in Vancouver is next in line. Then come Hritz and Petro; both are living now in Lavoy. Domka who married Harry Ruddick, now deceased, is living in Vegreville. Three other children died in childhood, Hanka, Mikola and Roman.

Kryvonishka Mill

by Fred Kryvonishka

The miller, dressed in brown jacket, black breeches, high top boots and straw hat, gives a sharp turn to a wooden handle attached to a block and tackle. Outside, the water wheel starts to turn as the dammed-up stream, now freed, rushes by. Inside the mill the machinery starts to rumble, clatter, and creak. Now the millstones are grinding, and from the spout flows whole wheat flour in a steady stream.

The scene is straight out of the 18th century, but it happened in 1908, 16 miles north of Innisfree, on the tributary creek that empties into Vermilion River about two miles east. The mill was the centre of activity in pioneer homestead days.

This is the story of the Kryvonishka family who emigrated to Canada in the spring of 1906, from the village of Grimaliwka, one of the most ancient settlements located along the river Styr, on the old Russian-Austrian border, near the town of Shchorowitshy, west of the city of Dubno and north of the city of Brody, in the province of Galicia, then part of Austria-Hungary.

Here are a few of the pioneer arts Ivan Kryvonishka and his wife Marinka were good at.

They raised their own wool, dyed their own cloth, made their own tallow dips. Ivan framed his

own buildings and quarried his own building stone. But the most ingenious construction he did was the building of a grist mill. So this story is going to be about it, and things done on the farm.

Ivan Kryvonishka was first a farmer, second a tradesman, and third not much of businessman. He performed a vital function by turning the farmer's labouriously produced crops into usable and saleable commodities. For his services he took a percentage of the crop. His share was typically of the period, an eighth of his grain.

The mill also brought the farmers together to share the latest news of the period. Such as prices, politics, the weather, and bits of gossip were all grist of socializing at the mill.

At harvest time the farmers brought in the grain, hand threshed, winnowed, and dried kernels of wheat and rye in sacks. Some carried it in on their backs from several miles away from their homesteads. There the sacks were hoisted to the granary, attached to the mill floor, carefully weighed and marked, and stored for future grinding, in rotation. Ivan was busy at the mill only when the stream was not frozen.

The most conspicuous feature of the mill, of course, was the water wheel, which was of the overshot variety, and as Ivan often said, "the most efficient, but requiring a substantial fall of water in the stream." The fall being artificially created by a built-up dirt dam. The water spilled over the top of the wheel, dropping into compartments or boxes, attached to its rim, and in combination with gravity, turned the wheel.

Ivan's millhouse and dam structure was made out of wood, even though stone was plentiful. The mill was frequently damaged by spring floods, and wash-outs, so wood structures were easier to repair, or to replace than those of stone masonry.

Two other structures were important parts of the water control. It was the flume, a box section with plank sides and bottom, supported on piers, which controlled and directed the water toward the wheel. A vertical wooden gate, protected by a gating, kept out the debris. Downstream, beyond the wheel, was a tail race, which was planking laid in the direction of the stream and supported by sills. The tail race carried the water away from the wheel quickly, so that it did not interfere with the operation of the wheel, and protected the ground underneath from being washed away.

The heart of the mill were the millstones. Ivan's mill had one pair of millstones. The top stone he called "the runner", because it rotated. The bottom stone, which was stationary, he called "the bed-stone."

The millstones, which weighed in at about half a ton each, were 3 feet 6 inches in diameter, and were made of fresh water quartz, which were valued for their hardness and durability.

Ivan chiseled the grooves, or furrows that ran outward from the square centre hole, which he called "the eye" of the stone. In each section the longest furrow was "the master", its closest neighbor "the journeyman", the following one "the apprentice", and the shortest, "the butterfly". The furrows on a matching pair of the stones were cut in opposite directions, and acted like scissors in grinding.

The millstones lasted as long as the mill, but constant grinding wore them smooth. An important part of Ivan's job was to chisel furrows sharp and clean, which was called "dressing the stones".

A pair of millstones needed to be dressed every sixty tons of grinding, and the job took about fifteen hours. Ivan tried to do this job during his spare time in the winter, if he could possibly avoid doing it in the summer.

Dressed millstones were set into place in a wooden case called a "vat". An assembly of iron parts fitted into the eye. The spindle fitted into the assembly and turned the top, or runner stone. Because the top stone had to be in perfect alignment, Ivan always checked this most carefully. He used a "jackstick", or "quill", attached to the top stone. If the quill left a mark on the bedstone, the spindle was out of alignment and had to be reset.

Ivan said that the mill was the first machine devised by man, and for centuries mills driven by wind or water were the only complex machines that could translate natural power into useful work. Here is a basic idea, using Ivan's mill for details:

When the water gate was opened and the water released to flow against the wheel, a chain of inter-related movements was set off. The water wheel was connected to a shaft, the trunk of a tree 22½ feet in length, and 22 inches in diameter. The shaft had a face gear with wood teeth that meshed with a lantern pinion to drive the spindle. The face gear served two purposes: It multiplied the action of the water wheel and it transferred the horizontal revolution of the shaft to the vertical rotation of the spindle. The ratio of water wheel to millstone was 3:14, that is, every time the wheel turned 3 times the top millstone turned 14 times.

The space which determined the texture of the grind was controlled by a tendering staff, which adjusted the large beam that moved the stones closer together for fine and further apart for a coarse flour.

The ground wheat emerged as whole wheat flour at the outer edges of the stones, where it was trapped

by a casing and fell down through a hole into the spout and out into the waiting sacks or bins.

Operating at full capacity, the mill was able to turn out seven or eight tons of flour a day. Usually, however, the yield was about a ton. Most of the flour was traded to farmers for poultry feed, but some was specially ground for sale to visitors who liked stone-ground flour for bread and muffins.

To put the mill in operation, Ivan would give a sharp turn to a wooden handle attached to a block and tackle. Outside the water wheel started to turn as the dammed-up stream, now freed, rushed by. Inside the mill the machinery started to rumble, clatter, and creak. Then the millstones began grinding, and from the spout flour flew down into the sack.

Kubrak, John and Helen

by John and Helen Kubrak

John Kubrak was born April 9, 1899, in the village of Sokola, county of Mosteska, in



John and Helen Kubrak wedding pose, 1927.

Halychyna, in Western Ukraine which at that time was under the Austro-Hungarian monarchy. In 1905 he began school; lessons were taken in two languages — Ukrainian and Polish. Those who wanted a higher education had to have German. Mr. Kubrak took private lessons after school hours for this possibility. John Humeniuk, principal of the school, taught the language for three years. The village of Sokola only had school to the sixth grade. In 1911 Mr. Kubrak went to Yavoriw and took his entrance exams for junior high school and attended there for three years. In August, 1914, the First World War began and all schools closed, so his education ended abruptly after grade 12. His older brother was enlisted in the war with the Ukrainian army so John went home to take care of the farm and his mother. In 1918 his mother passed away during the Spanish flu. At that time one quarter of the village population died from the epidemic. In 1923 the region officially became part of Poland and under the new regime life was very hard, so John Kubrak decided to leave his country and go to Canada. His uncle had been in the U.S. several times and had informed him that the money was there but you had to work hard.

In December in 1925 John Kubrak went to Lwiw to the immigration agency. At that time Canada was encouraging people to come out and work on the farms only. All local papers had ads. about jobs in Canada. He put in his application and in two and half months he was accepted. He then bought his ticket prepaid to Edmonton for \$165.00 in American funds and then waited for the departure.

He left for Canada on March 4, 1926, at 8:00 A.M. and arrived in Warsaw the same day. He spent March 5th, 6th, and 7th in Warsaw and on the 8th left for Vhyrow. He spent four days there and then left for Danski. Later that evening he left by boat to Southampton, England. It was now the 15th of March. He stayed in old barracks for four days before they left. He couldn't believe how flat the land was. Grasses were very green and luscious-looking. On the 19th of March he boarded the S.S. Minnedosa for Canada. The rooms on the boat were rather small; two people stayed in each room on a bunk bed, one up and one down. He never got sick on the trip at all. He could look out of his window and see some sky along with some water. People were only allowed to stay in their rooms for two days and then had to get up



Actors from the theatre group: Top (l. to r.): Messrs. Sysak, Taraberitz, Sobot, unknown. Middle: Messrs. Kubrak, unknown, Palcat, Woroschuk, Lemiski, (unknown). Front: Mr. Ludwick, Mr. Woshetski, Mrs. Delarak, Mr. Myzyka, Mrs. Kieryluk, Mrs. Ludwick, unknown, 1930's.

and walk around. Bells rang for mealtimes and food was plentiful. Most of the meals were fish but one could eat as much as one desired. Movies were something very new and these they really enjoyed. On the 27th of March, John arrived at St. John, New Brunswick, and on the 29th left for Edmonton. Meals or food on the train had to be paid for by each passenger. Trainmen would carry food in baskets for sale. Such foods as bread, canned fish, milk and coffee were included. A great surprise and delight were the indoor washroom facilities on the train along with the hot and cold running water. He arrived in Edmonton on April 3rd. at the immigration centre. Having an address from a friend who had arrived earlier, he walked to that rooming house. Daily visits were made to the immigration office to read the bulletin board and see the jobs available. On April 21st, Harry Oshiecky, church builder from Plain Lake and New Kiew area, arrived at the immigration hall to try and get some carpenter's helpers. John volunteered as an experienced carpenter as he had training in that field from school. He gave John \$1.00 to make the trip to Vegreville. The next day, April 22nd John paid \$2.50 for the bus fare and arrived at 11:30 A.M. Since he had no money before he left for Vegreville he borrowed \$3.00 from Mr. Nick Yuskow, a close friend. He was left with 50¢ so he bought one quart of milk and a loaf of bread for 18¢. This left him with 32¢. He then went to the immigration hall (presently Ernie's Auto Body Shop) and asked if he could use the table for his lunch. This cost him 10¢ so he now had 22¢. This hall was in very poor condition and at about 4:00 P.M. the bed bugs started to come out of the walls. At this time he had decided that even 10¢ for a night's stay was too much. He left there and went on to the Alberta Hotel. The manager was Ukrainian so he could converse with him. He asked him if he could stay the night and if not, what could he do as his money was running out quickly. The manager, Mr. M. Dutka, looked at him rather oddly and scoffed at the idea of his coming to the hotel without having any money. He then asked him what kind of work he could do. He told him he was a carpenter and a benchworker. He then started to talk to him in a different tone and asked him to come back at 6:00 P.M. to the kitchen to eat; then told him he could sleep in the same quarters as his workers. The next day John went picking roots with someone he had met on the street. The farm was situated across from the Composite High School. He only worked two days and received \$4.00 plus board. In those two days he had worn out his shoes completely, so that afternoon he went to the store called Kieryluk's Store, presently Chin's Cafe. His shoes cost \$3.50 and a pair of working overalls \$3.50; he only had

\$4.00 so he asked for a credit of \$3.00. Mr. Kieryluk asked if he could build a fence and repair his home. Since that was his trade he went to work that day tearing down the old fence before putting up a new one. The ground was still frozen so it was quite a job. However, in two weeks he had built the fence and made repairs in the home and he had earned \$28.00, board included. He paid back the loan and the storekeeper said he was very proud of his work.

By then the hotel manager was getting very impatient for he wanted him to do carpenter work for him, offering him \$45.00 a month and board and room. He refused to work for that amount so the manager offered him \$75.00 per month. Thereafter he did repair work and helped in the laundry too.

In September several immigrants including John organized an evening English class with the help of Peter Svarich. The principal of the high school, Mr. Hayhurst, taught the classes three times a week for two hours until the end of April in 1927. Those immigrants who had more education from their homeland found it much easier to learn the new language and do mathematics. They were very thankful to the school board, Mr. Svarich and the people in the community as this was a free service to them.

In June, 1927, John married Helen Lipkiewicz. She also worked in the laundry at the hotel, so the manager made the wedding for them and donated all the furnishings for their house. The couple rented a small home for two months and in September bought a two-room house for \$150.00, across the back lane from the Elks' Hall. This home became a hospitality place for all other immigrants and for most of their social life, whether it be visiting in the evening or



25th wedding anniversary of John and Helen Kubrak in the church hall, 1952.

playing cards on Sunday. They often conversed in English to practice as they were very much aware that the English language was very important. Just coming together to hear their own songs, verses and jokes seemed to make life more bearable. This was fine for a break but otherwise they always worked hard to reach their goals and lived very sparingly to save money for that rainy day. By this time their home seemed just a bit small and by March, 1928, they were able to buy a bigger and newer home for \$378.00. In April that same year John left the laundry and started to work at the Door and Sash factory owned by Mr. C. Gordon. The foreman, Ernie Luxton, put him on a trial basis first. John was asked to work at the turner lathe; he really was happy now for he could really show them what he had learned in the old country, making spinning wheels. At that time all the ornate fashions were being done on the lathe. In a short while he became accustomed to work by motor rather than by foot as he used to do at home. He made window frames, door frames, doors any size, shelves, tables, chairs, and many farm items as well.

In 1936 Mr. Gordon (manager) died so in 1937 Imperial Lumber bought all of Mr. Gordon's holdings. John worked there until 1952 when he started on his own as a contractor building homes. He bought four lots in the spring and built homes on them. For one year the oldest son helped with the work and in the summer the youngest son did. He also bought property in Edmonton and built homes there for four years. In all, John has built about 35 homes in the town of Vegreville.

He and his wife both took part in the church and in cultural activities in the community, such as drama and concerts at the National Hall where they also held many reading meetings. He attended the church choir from 1939-50, was the Parish Secretary-Treasurer from 1940 to 1957. He had a membership in the Ukrainian Canadian Committee and had been the treasurer for four years. With the Ukrainian Brother-

hood Association he was secretary for nine years. For appreciation from the parish he was presented with an appropriate certificate. Now John and Helen are totally retired but they still live in Vegreville.

Helen Lipkiewicz

Helen was born in 1902 in the village of Haye Smolinski, in the county of Brody, in Western Ukraine called Halychina. She attended grade school until war broke out in 1914. Their school was held only half-days because the children had to pasture cattle in the afternoon. County of Brody was quite central and therefore in the fighting lines, whether they be forces coming in or going out. In 1916 in the spring the Austrians retreated and the Hungarian army came in. They took Helen's father while he was working in the field and placed him in Telerhoff in Austria. The family never knew where their father disappeared. Mother and Helen were left alone as a younger brother had to enlist in the Austrian army. An older brother was in the army earlier and did not return at all. In 1918 the youngest brother came home and then joined the Ukrainian army. In the spring of 1918 father returned from Telerhoff, Austria, so this was a big surprise to all. In October 1918 the First World War ended. Property had been destroyed, as the whole village was used for underground hideouts from the enemy as well as trenches for the army. After the war there was a great deal of work before the field could be used for crops again. In 1919 the Spanish flu took most of the people from the villages and amongst those catching the flu was Helen's father who died on May 10, 1919. Her mother took ill immediately after and died on May 20, 1919. Helen was left an orphan when she was 16. There was no money for funerals, nothing to eat and no money to buy anything. The only alternative was to look for a job to pay the debts for the parents' funerals and the land. She had worked for concrete-building companies, carrying and lifting cement for buildings and after hours she worked in a flour-mill to help pay the debt quickly. In 1920 her older brother came back from the Ukrainian army and things got better for he was always there to share the pains and griefs with her. In 1921 her brother was married and lived with his wife in Helen's home. Helen could then see that subdividing the property and building another home was not going to be enough for a livelihood for two families. This encouraged her to think very quickly and decide what the future had for her. By then her cousin was in Canada so she wrote to her and asked her for an affidavit so as to allow her to go to Canada as a domestic in her cousin's home. In the fall of 1924 she received her visa to enter Canada. She borrowed \$100.00 and paid the rest of the trip herself. One night at sea a great storm arose. She could not sleep,



Annual church carnival held in Vegreville with the crowning of the queen. Mayor McClure crowning Kubrak's daughter Mary, 1948.

so she kept walking from one deck to another. All the mates were frantically removing the water which was running down the stairs. Horns blew all night trying to get help, but by morning the storm was over. During the rest of the trip the evenings were very long and she could hardly wait to see land. It also seemed to be getting colder and colder every day. On December 28, 1924, she arrived at St. John, New Brunswick on the S.S. Marburn, and the passengers were placed on trains the next day for the long trip to the West. Having almost no money she did not dare buy any food to eat. Sometimes some people offered her a bite of bread or a sip of coffee. Just being on a warm train, having indoor washrooms, and berths for sleeping kept her happy. She was dropped off the train at Mannville by mistake, instead of Vegreville. A couple there seemed to be going towards Morecambe so they took her half way and she stayed the night with them. The next day they sent word to Morecombe that she had arrived and her cousin's husband, John Chmilar, came and got her. She lived in Morecambe at his home on the farm for two months. He then got word that help was needed at the Alberta Hotel in Vegreville. Mr. Dutka, the manager, hired her as kitchen help. She was pleased to have this job and be able to earn some money. They all had rooms and ate at the hotel. She worked day and night, not knowing the language but tried to satisfy the cooks. One incident she remembers was when the Chinese cook asked her to go upstairs and rest until the train came because he too was going to rest. He pointed to the ceiling, like charades, as she did not speak English. Before he returned she had the ceiling of the kitchen completely washed! On June 17, 1927, Helen married John Kubrak and they both worked in the Vegreville Laundry. She stopped working when her first child was born in July of 1928. At that time they had three doctors in town, namely Dr. Yak, Dr. Couillard and Dr. Reid (Sr.) and they all lived in the

hotel then. To get a doctor, people just walked to the hotel and talked to their doctor or used the hotel phone to call the hospital to talk with the doctor. Most of the Kubrak children were born at home because by the time the doctor came they were born. He then visited daily for a week or so.

Helen's husband could use a sewing machine very well so he taught her and both of them sewed all the children's clothing and made all their shoes. The children all attended Ukrainian school daily or weekly as well as dancing, singing and other cultural activities. Helen was one of the chartered members of the Ladies of St. Anne in the Holy Trinity Ukrainian Catholic Parish, which had begun in 1932.

The Kubraks had five children: Mary, Walter, Elsie, Sophie and Mikie. With a great deal of work and determination their children all completed school so that their future was more stable than their parents'. All their children are now married and there are 17 grandchildren; all are bilingual and take part in many community activities.

Their oldest daughter Mary finished college and then worked in the secretarial field. She married John Chamaschuk and presently they manage the Bon Vien Motor Lodge in Banff. They have two adopted children, Diane and Joanne, still in school. They just recently celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary.

Walter, the oldest son, received a scholarship from the county and after taking one year of education taught school in Manville for three years. He then returned to the University of Manitoba and took architecture. Presently he works for the Provincial Government as the long-range planner. He married a nurse from Winnipeg, Shirley Rodway; they now live in Edmonton. They have five children: Cathy, Christine, Carmen, Lisa and Walter John. All children are still in school with the oldest at U. of A.

Elsie, the next daughter, went to the University of Manitoba and received her Bachelor of Science in Home Economics. She then worked as a Home Economist in St. Paul for two years and in Lamont for one year. She married Mike Kawulich, a lawyer in Vegreville, and made her home here. She then taught school in Mundare for three years. They have five children: Douglas, Elana, Margaret, Maria and Bradley. Douglas is already in his 3rd year of Commerce at the U. of A.

Elsie is very involved with volunteer work in this community.

Another daughter, Sophie, went into nursing and trained in St. Paul's Hospital in Vancouver. She then went off to Hawaii to work, married Bob Hammon, with the U.S. Airforce, and now lives in Boston, Massachusetts. She has three children: David, Do-



Kubrak's 50th wedding anniversary, 1977. Children in back row.

nald and Janna. David is now at University at a Military college.

Mikie, the youngest child, also completed University in Manitoba and took architecture. He too works for the provincial government as the principal architect. He married Judy and they have two young children, Susan and David.

The Kubraks were very busy with family, church, and community affairs and activities. They celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary in 1952 and in 1977 their 50th anniversary.

When they were just married they also kept a cow, some chickens, pigs and ducks so that they could always have food even if the money was not available. Living next door to the police barracks (R.C.M.P.) made life very interesting. They fed many a prisoner and the children were used as interpreters many times. Memories of all the hard work seems to have enriched their lives. Now Helen at 78 and her husband at 80, can reminisce with the grandchildren in a pleasant atmosphere.

Kuly, Fred and Natalka

by Lawrence and Orest Kuly

The Story of the Original Pair — Fred Kuly (1857-1943) and his wife Natalka (Bilyk) Kuly (1865-1942)

A big, courageous, stalwart man employed by a wealthy West Ukraine landlord grew weary of his job after some twenty long years. All this time he had worked as a forest patrol — policing the landlord's private forest against poachers and wood thieves. In the late 1800's even firewood was a scarce and costly commodity in "cello" Beeli near the town of Chortkiw in West Ukraine. These circumstances inspired big Fred to dream of owning his very own land with generous forest growth and wildlife. Fred applied for and received a passport, valid for three years, in 1898. It wasn't until April 1900, armed with determination and a dream in mind, that Fred Kuly, with wife Natalka, son Hnat (age nine), son Nick (age seven), little Joseph (age four) and baby Julienne (age one) boarded a steamer at Chortkiw to travel to America. Thus began the first leg of a long journey that was to eventually establish the outgrowth of a large agriculturally-oriented family.

Upon boarding the steamer, little did Fred know that his expert marksmanship with a shotgun (seldom was he known to miss) would become essential in the new land. Duck, rabbit and partridge were an abundant source of food in this area at the turn of the century.

Little did he know that he was to establish an entirely new reputation — that of a mighty and unyielding axeman — a land clearer who would, with



Tony Paranich and Hnat Kuly in traditional cowboy attire, Calgary, 1907.

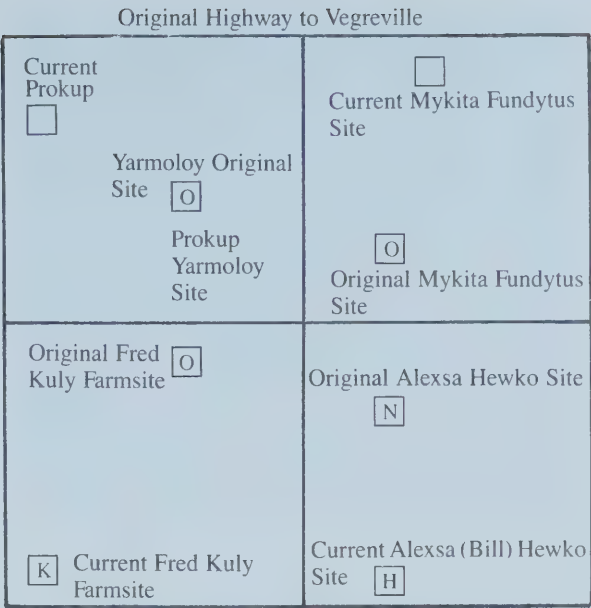


Fred and Natalka Kuly family. Seated (l. to r.): Fred Kuly, Natalka Kuly, Hnat Kuly. Standing (l. to r.): Nick Kuly, Joe Kuly, John Kuly, Peter Kuly, 1923.

the help of four healthy oxen, work tirelessly and for long hours. Fred preferred oxen to horses and it was said that he was never seen even hitching up a team of horses. (In later years horsemanship was to become the pride and joy of several of his sons and at least one nephew.)

Upon arrival in Canada the Kulys decided that Winnipeg was the ideal settlement district and planned to locate a homestead there. It was only after discovering that the available land was just marginally treed and after the insistence of Nataalka Kuly and one or two other women, that the men in the party were persuaded to travel farther west. Consequently they journeyed on along the C.N. line to Edmonton, where government agents helped locate the Kuly homestead on SW 14-52-16. The price tag was \$10.00 and the location eight miles west of Vegreville. The land looked good and it was almost entirely treed with large stands of poplar. Wildlife was abundant too. Coyotes were excessively prevalent due to a plentiful food supply.

The original Kulys settled almost simultaneously with four other families — those headed by Alexsa Hewko, Sidorko Nozak, Mikita Fundytus and Kerylo Paranich. The Kulys' original yard site was along the northern fenceline in the centre of the quarter. This location put them near the centre of the section where they were close to the Fundytus and Hewko neighbors. Also the more distant borders of the quarter-section were not clearly laid out or known.



The first winter was spent in a sod hut akin to a root cellar. Conditions were difficult. Smaller wild-life — mice, gophers and even garter snakes would at times inhabit the hut. Julianne, the only daughter, passed away in 1903. Son John was born in 1902 and son Peter in 1905. Both are retired currently residing in Vegreville.

The well was hand dug and stone lined. Several



A typical social occasion at the home of Sidorko Nozak, about 1948.

years later the yard site was moved to the west side of the quarter where it still remains today.

All buildings were built of hand-hewn logs, finished with mud and clay on the inside and outside. Some logs were brought in from near the North Saskatchewan river in the wintertime. On one such journey, one cold winter day, the party of neighbors hauling forty-foot logs on sleighs, decided a brief stop-over at the Mundare Hotel for lunch and refreshments was in order. The stop lasted longer than anticipated and when the men finally decided to leave, the anxious horses did a too sharp, quick U turn in front of the hotel, skidding the sleighs in a manner that resulted in all the hotel windows along one wall being smashed out by the protruding forty-foot logs. Roofs were made of thatched straw and were surprisingly fireproof. However, a very dry

year, 1919, resulted in hungry cattle eating away as much of the thatch roofing as they could get at.

All was not hard work. The Kulys soon gained a reputation for hard work, when work had to be done, and fun when there was no work to do. One form of relaxation involved some neighbours — Harry Kulmatycki, Prokup Yarmoloy, Mykita Fundytus, Kerylo Paranich and Yakiw Yarmoloy and the Kulys. Card games were in order for this particular group. A favourite game was "Veez" (Wagon).

A house specialty, whenever the group met at the Kulys, was Nataalka's hot pyrohy. The group would consume vast quantities of freshly-made pyrohy while playing cards into the early morning hours. It was reputed that a game never ceased until the pyrohy ran short and Mrs. Kuly was a tireless pyrohy-maker. She was a good cook. Another favorite food was

NOT TO BE DETACHED from the
note until surrendered to maker.

Security Memo.

The within Note and one for \$..... due..... 1905
and one Note for \$..... due..... 190 and one Note for
\$..... due..... 190 secured by..... Mortgage
on Red Hereford Bull 2 yrs. old worth 60⁰⁰ 100
One McCormick Mower bought in 1905
Rake do
Recorded in Clerk's Office at..... on the
day of..... 1905 as No.....

Agency.
Note No. 15899
Form 216, 5M-4-11

\$ 1051.00

205☆

Winnipeg, Man. Dec., 20th 191

On or before the first day of December 1913

for value received, I promise to pay to SAWYER-MASSEY COMPANY, Limited, or order, the sum of

One thousand and fifty one DOLLARS,

at their office, Winnipeg, with interest at SEVEN per cent. per annum till due, and Ten per cent. per annum after due till paid.

Given in
connection with
Order No. A594

Vegreville
POST OFFICE

WITNESS

Paul
Fred Kuly

buckwheat pies made from buckwheat, garnished with dill, topped with sour cream and served hot. This particular pie was nourishing and most popular. Homemade wines were another specialty with chokecherry a popular favorite. Fish were in plentiful supply. Often the men would go to Ross Creek with teams and sleighs. It was not unusual to fill the sixty-bushel grain box full. The fish was salted, dried and cooked fresh. Offering food and alcoholic spirits was a sign of a good host whenever neighbors dropped in.

Weddings were at least day-long celebrations. Vast quantities of homemade cooking were consumed while the guests mingled, visited and danced outdoors on homemade platforms. Music was local talent. Good-natured teasing and bravado was also a part of having fun. On one occasion at the Kulys, after the end of a plowing bee and early in the morning, several neighbors and the eldest son, Hnat, boasted of their plowing teams. Since verbal discussion did not prove anything, a practical demonstration ensued. The following morning the senior Kulys awakened to find most of their yard plowed up during the plowing contest the night before.

The spiritual side of life was different, in that early church services were held in various homes in the neighborhood. Rarely, if ever, was a service missed especially on special occasions and holidays. Often this meant a four A.M. awakening and a twelve-mile trip by oxen (later horses) to Mundare. Faith provided strength in a desolate and difficult environment.

The Kulys and their neighbors developed a special kind of rapport and relationship that is unusual in business today. The degree of trust, confidence and support people gave each other was unusual. It was common to co-sign loans and to work co-operatively at building-construction, field work, threshing, or even at feather bees (Toloka).

Interest rates on loans were high. Lending institutions would pay two or three percent interest on deposits but would charge eight, ten or eleven percent on loans, often increasing the rate after the date due. Income was always in short supply and operating on borrowed capital was extremely risky. Few people could read well and many could not even sign their names.

One of the most significant business deals was an agreement signed in 1913 to purchase a Sawyer-Massey steam engine and Sawyer-Massey wooden threshers. The principals in this agreement were Marko Tymchuk, Sidorko Nozak, Nick Moniowski and Fred Kuly. The cost of the machine was \$1,-051.00. The original threshing machine was later traded for an all-steel Case model. The Kuly-oper-

ated steam threshing machine was well-known in the neighborhood. Early practices called for stacking the bundles and later having the threshing crew work at the stack. Because of this essential practice of stacking, threshing often carried on into the winter — once as late as Easter. The grain was sacked and the sacks were carried into log granaries where they were stacked. Hard work indeed! It cost six cents per bushel to thresh grain in 1922.

When the company outfit was disbanded, a Rock Island tractor and 28" Waterloo thresher were purchased and operated by Hnat Kuly until the advent of combine threshers.

Family Detail

The Fred and Natalka Kulys' immediate family was as follows:

Hnat — 1891-1958

Nicolla — 1893-1961

Joseph — 1896-1963

Julianna — 1899-1903

John — 1902-

Peter — 1905-

Kuly, Hnat and Tatania (Woloshyn)

Hnat, the eldest son of Fred and Natalka, married Tatania Woloshyn from the Lavoy district. Their oldest son Nick passed away in 1952. Nick liked horses and enjoyed teams in "fancy dress" harness.

Hnat's second son, Peter, married Olga Korpan. They have a family of four: Alvin, Virginia, Richard and Lorraine.

Alvin, a commercial trucker, and his wife, Mary, have three sons: Lawrence, Harold and Allan who are all at school.

Virginia is married to Gary McLachlan. They live and farm at Ross Creek and have a son, Shawn, and a five-month-old daughter, Kerry.

Richard is married to Marilyn McGee. Richard works as a heavy-duty mechanic for Hulburt Crane. He resides in St. Albert where he enjoys daughter Shannon and son Kevin.

Lorraine married Tony Yakemchuk from Two Hills. They live in Edmonton where Tony does carpentry and Lorraine works at N.A.I.T.

Hnat's only daughter, Anne, is married to Joe Powley. The Powleys live in Vegreville and have three children: Clarence, Vivian Chomiak and Joanne (Joey) Powley.

Clarence married Angie Pooke. They farm west of Vegreville and have Monica and Ricky to help them.

Vivian married a local boy, Lawrence Chomiak, who is an Edmonton welder. They have four children: Valerie, Daryl, Rosanne and Lorie.

Joanne (Joey), the youngest Powley is living at home and nursing at the Vegreville General Hospital.

Hnat's talents came to the fore at threshing time. He was foreman and managed the crew. He enjoyed good stories and homemade wine. As a fifteen-year-old he upset a wagon-load of grain bundles. No problem except that his father, Fred, ended up underneath the load. Fearing disciplinary action, Hnat promptly left home. Eventually he became a section-foreman near Banff. He purchased land in Saskatchewan but had to forego it during the depression of the thirties. Hnat and his buddy, Tony Paranych, had a flair for the unusual. When working in Calgary they dressed up in cowboy outfits complete with six guns, hats and chaparajos. They made postcard photos of themselves in those outfits and mailed the cards to friends and relatives back home.

Kuly, John and Anne (Kully)

John is known for his practical jokes, good humor and community involvement. He was very active in Moscow and Borschiw community organizations. So faithful was he to the Kuly family tradition that he chose a wife who bore the same family name, Kully. This union brought forth a family of one son and three daughters: Sophie, Orest, Elsie and Helen.

Sophie, who is a receptionist at the Vegreville General Hospital, married Emil Korpan, a local farmer. They have two daughters: Arlene (Allan Hrynyk) and Karen (Lee Wood). Arlene and Allan live near Royal Park. Both work at the Environment Centre in Vegreville. Karen is an R. N. in Calgary while Lee is a student minister in that city.

Orest, an avid, community-minded, farmer-musician, is married to Emily Nowak. They operate the original John Kuly farm west of Vegreville. Orest and Emily have two sons, Dale and Barry, who are both attending university. Dale is in fourth-year Agriculture and Barry is in his second year of Arts. Their chosen daughter, Cheryl, attends school in Vegreville.

Elsie has spent many years in the southern part of the United States. She has one daughter, Carolyn. Elsie's husband, Ray Stockard, manages a feed lot in Amarillo, Texas, where the family lives.

Helen is married to John Kulba, an Edmonton educator who works for the Department of Education. They have a son, Marcel, who is attending the University of Alberta, and a daughter, Marcia, who is in junior high school.

John and Anne Kuly celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in June, 1978. John is retired and both are presently residing in Vegreville.

Kuly, Joseph and Rose (Kostiwka)

With progressive foresight and thoughtful planning, Joseph worked hard to provide leadership and support for the entire operation and growth of the Kuly family farms.

Joseph met Rose through Tatania (Woloshyn) Kuly as Rose lived with the Woloshyns upon arrival in Canada as a twenty-two-year-old.

Their family of four are: Lawrence, Sonia, William and Sylvia.

Lawrence is married to Sophie Semeniuk, a teacher who hails from Thorhild. He was an educator and now farms the original Joseph Kuly farm south of Royal Park.

Sonia is married to Roger Ambrosie. They have two sons, Grant and Allen. Residence has been in Edmonton where Roger owns and operates Trail Tire Service Ltd.

William, a graduate in Agrology, is married to Corrine Bouchard. William is employed with the Government of Alberta, Department of Lands and Forests in Edmonton.

Sylvia married a local boy, Gordon Drysdale, an airline pilot who now flies out of Calgary. Their children, Donna and David, are attending school in Calgary.

Kuly, Nick and Barbara (Zeleny)

Nick's family, Russell and Mary, remain in the Vegreville district.

Russell operates Kuly Motors. He is married to June Holowaychuk. They have three daughters: Marcia, Julie and Delis attending school.

Mary married Nick Yarmoloy, a local farmer.

Nick was a qualified steam engineer who operated the steam engine during threshing time. At age sixteen, Nick had the misfortune of striking his leg with an axe while cutting brush. Due to blood poisoning and gangrene an amputation was later performed. An artificial leg proved unsuitable, so Nick built his own. This handicap did not prevent him from leading an active, normal life.

Nick's widow, Barbara, resides in Vegreville.

Kuly, Peter and Frances (Lakusta)

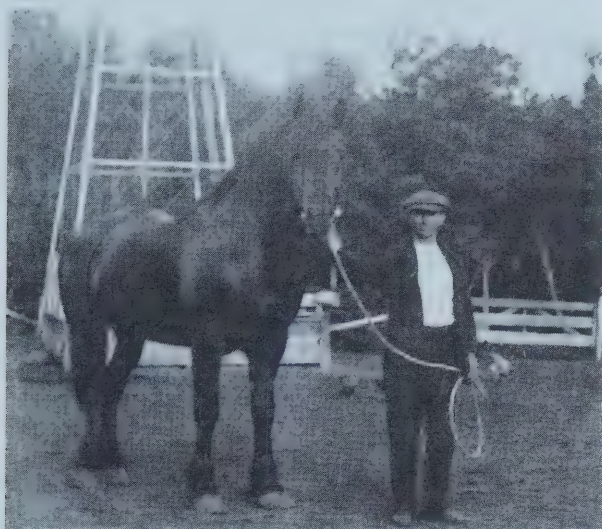
Being the youngest of a family of five boys, and not having any sisters, Peter is known for some very special contributions. He assisted his busy mother with many household duties, ranging from plucking chickens and helping to prepare food, to hoeing gardens and doing chores around the yard. Today this genial, junior son of the original Kuly pair resides in the town of Vegreville after retirement from farming. He and his wife Frances have a family of four: Ernest, Mary, Michael and Edward.

ERNEST lives in Vegreville where he operates Ernest's Transport.

MARY and her husband, Paul Shtokal, farm near Holden. They have one son, Darcy, who is attending school.

MICHAEL is an artist and an art teacher. He is currently studying in Winnipeg, but his place of residence is Innisfail where he has taught school for a number of years.

EDWARD is married to a Lloydminster girl, Marg Furtas. They are farming the Peter F. Kuly farm west of Vegreville.



Willis Cole with one of his prize stallions. 1950's.

Kuzyk, John and Catherine

Coming to Canada as a young man, John Kuzyk worked in Edmonton in 1912, then wintered on the farm of Nikiforuk at Royal Park. Next spring he commenced working for the CNR and continued for the rest of his life, alternating between the jobs of firing, section-man, and night watchman for the Camrose train. In 1916 he married fifteen-year-old Catherine Pawliuk of Royal Park; it was a simple ceremony at the (then) Presbyterian Church at Kolomea. They moved into John's little one-roomed shack in the north-west part of Vegreville, but soon John, being a hard worker and handy as well, built their first house (the one now occupied by Sid Smith). They sold that when John was transferred to Camrose for nine years; on their return, they built several houses, using railway scrap whenever possible, for times were tough then; the place across from the CP station was their home until their final house was completed at the corner of the Kuzyk acreage — a pasture which used to extend north from the CN tracks to Hospital avenue and the CP tracks; this was



John and Catherine Kuzyk, 1952.

used to pasture town cows, to grow oats and gardens, and for a short-cut to and from Frenchtown; today most of this is occupied by Wood and Garden Trailer Court. Catherine Kuzyk lives today in this home, attractively set in the V-shaped part at the junction of 48 St. and 54 A Avenue, with two of her sons nearby, her husband having died an untimely death in 1955. Her memories are of good times and bad, and lots of hard work throughout. As a youngster, she had to babysit the rest of the little Pawliuks, so she had small chance for schooling; that is why she was determined that her own children would get a good education. She helped her husband in his projects, but most of all she enjoyed being a home-maker — caring for her three sons, cooking, canning and sewing; it was a challenge to make nice “new” garments out of old, as many mothers learned in the depression. Kuzyks kept cows and a big garden, so there was lots of good food, more wholesome than the stuff bought today. Perhaps, Catherine thinks, the old habit of throwing soapy dish-water onto the garden was a safer insecticide than those used now. At seventy-eight, Mrs. Kuzyk suffers from encroaching arthritis, but she still keeps her own home and does much of her own yard work, although assistance comes from the younger members of the clan.

The oldest son, Nick, spent most of his youth in Vegreville, his pastimes being cars and music; from 1933 till 1937 he played with the “Rhythym Troubadors”, which also featured such local lads as Mike Craddock, Gene Poulin, Bill Kuzyk, and Nick Kozuk from Royal Park. Graduated from the U of A with B.A. and from Queen's University, Kingston, with a medical degree, Dr. Nick has since lived and practised in Vegreville. He married Jean Austin, a

Ranfurly girl who taught school in this area. The local Elks became one of Nick's interests, and he rose through the ranks to become Grand Exalted Ruler of Canada in 1975. Jean has been involved in education and caring for their eight children, namely: Barbara Bruggencate of Calgary, Debbie of Calgary, Dr. Cathryn Mertz of Calgary, Arlene of Edmonton, John at home, Estelle of Calgary, Jim of U of A, and Gloria at VCHS; plus four grandchildren: Michael, Molly, Christopher, and Carrie.

William Kuzyk, Ph.D., is an aeronautical engineer and works in Ottawa.

Stanley Kuzyk, B.Ed., is a teacher at A. L. Horton Jr. High in Vegreville; he lives next to his mother with his wife, the former Ruby Yaremciw of Lavoy. They have two sons: Craig, B.Ed., now teaching at Two Hills, and Bill at U of A.

Kuzyk, Nicholas John

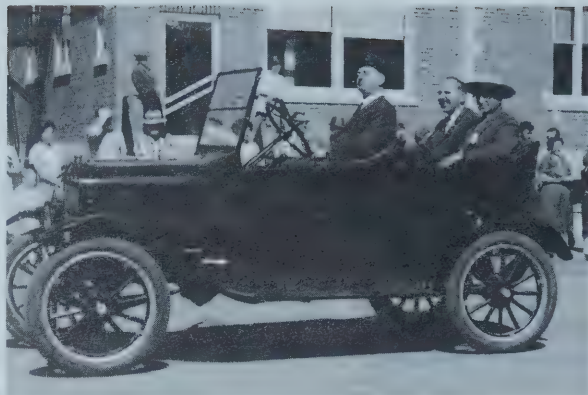
N. J. Kuzyk, B.A., M.D., C.M., L.M.C.C.

Nicholas John Kuzyk was born in Vegreville, the eldest son of Catherine and John Kuzyk. He took his schooling in Camrose and Vegreville.

After graduating from the University of Alberta with a B.A., he attended Queens University in Kingston, Ontario, and graduated in medicine.



Dr. N. J. Kuzyk, 1980.



Dr. N. J. Kuzyk in his glory in his vintage car — Vegreville Exhibition parade. In back seat — John Koshuta (l. to r.) — Mayor of Vegreville, and Art Schmidt — President of the Exhibition Board. 1960's.

Dr. Kuzyk then specialized in surgery at McKellar Hospital, Fort William, Ontario, before opening a practice with Dr. E. W. Svarich in Vegreville in December 1945. During the period in Fort William, he spent time examining prisoner-of-war camps in Northern Ontario.

Marriage in 1950 to Frances Jeanne Austin (a school teacher) resulted in a family of eight — Barbara, Debra, Cathryn, Arlene, John, Estelle, Jim and Gloria.

Throughout the years Dr. Kuzyk has participated fully in community affairs. These included:

- Coroner since 1946 and still a Medical Examiner (President of Coroners Section, Alberta Medical Association 1972-79).
- Medical officer for Army Cadets
- Club Doctor for Elks Juvenile Hockey Team (Alberta A and B Champions 1953-54)
- St. Martin's School Board (chairman for nine years)
- Knights of Columbus
- Kinsmen
- K-40
- Chamber of Commerce
- B.P.O.E. (Grand Exalted ruler of Elks of Canada 1975-76)
- Member of founding committee of Dr. Cairns School for Handicapped
- Vegreville Gun Club
- Presently a director of the Alberta Medical Association

Among Dr. Kuzyk's hobbies are restoring old cars, flying, and enjoying time at the "farm" at Mann Lake, Ashmont. He still operates a stern-wheeler houseboat that he designed and built.

Lafleur Family

by Joseph Dubuc

Rosario and Alexnina Lafleur adorned our early community of Vegreville for many years, he operating many ventures: coal and wood dealer; livery barn, which he later sold to Emil Roy; a public weight scales taken over later by Henri Dumont.

They were blessed with four children: Mrs. Claire Bourget, living in Tacoma, Washington, at 82 years; Elphege, (Conrad) "Fish" in Edmonton, age unknown; Romuald was deceased several years ago. He was married to the former Beatrice Drozdowich. Then Marie-Anne Lind (Lafleur) passed away in June, 1969, of cancer. Mother of a boy and girl, she was a nurse all her life. Claire Bourget has a daughter Rose (Mrs. W. A. Shaeffer) who was born in Vegreville in 1922, and your narrator bets that is the little tyke I myself had seen when Claire was teaching at Dubuc School and lived close by in a small teacherage. A young Aucoin girl baby-sat while Claire was in class. I feel sure this would be (has to be) Rose, the present Mrs. Schaeffer.

Laird, Sinclair and Jean

by Betty Boorse

Sinclair and Jean Laird, formerly of Inverness, Scotland, arrived in Canada in April of 1926. Mr. Laird spent four years in Active Service in France and two years as Guard on the Rhine in Germany.

Upon arriving in Vegreville Mr. Laird worked for Herb Davis and William Cunningham. During this period of time he gained knowledge and experience of the farming industry.

In 1927 the Laird's settled on a farm three miles west of town, which remained their home for eighteen years. The location is now identified as the Repski farm. Mr. Laird dairy-farmed during this period of time, raising prize Holstein Cows. He taught the local dairy men how to pasteurize milk. Knowledge of pasteurizing milk was a skill he learned in Scotland. He also supplied milk to the Town of Vegreville, a door-to-door delivery service. After retiring from the farm the Laird's moved into their new home in town. Continuing with his knowledge of the farm, Mr. Laird worked at the local Creamery for approximately five years. He then went to work for the Department of Highways for a total of two years. The last job Mr. Laird held was Caretaker at the Provincial Courthouse. During his time working at the Courthouse he acquired the nickname "Scotty". To this day he is still remembered by many people as Scotty.

The Laird's have three daughters. Betty was born in Scotland. She is now married to Bill Boorse and they have their home in St. Paul, Alberta. Jean was



Mr. and Mrs. S. Laird, 1940.



Family and friends at Laird's 25th wedding anniversary, 1940's.

born in Vegreville and she now lives in Breton with her husband, Peter Barniuk.

Ina was born in Vegreville. She married Joe Zaporozan and they still remain in Vegreville. Sinclair and Jean Laird had eleven grandchildren and fourteen great-grandchildren.

Mr. Laird passed away in January of 1961 following an illness of several months. After his death, Mrs. Laird sold their home and moved in with her

daughter and son-in-law, Joe and Ina Zaporozan, remaining with them for ten years when she then moved into the Senior Citizens Home.

In 1962 Mrs. Laird returned to Scotland for a month to visit her family and friends. Her last trip overseas was in 1978. During this visit she was accompanied by her youngest daughter, Ina, and her son-in-law. Although it was a very tiring trip for her, she was glad she had the chance to see everyone for the last time.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Laird were active members of the Vegreville United Church. Mrs. Laird was a member of the U.C.W. for a number of years and Mr. Laird was a member of the Royal Canadian Legion.

Mrs. Jean Laird passed away December 28, 1978. She is laid to rest beside her husband at Evergreen Memorial in South Edmonton.

The memories of these great parents and grandparents are held very close at heart.

Lakusta, Dmetro and Rachel by Mrs. Anne Orfino

My Dad, Mr. Dmetro Lakusta, was born in 1882 in the Village of Zawaly in the Ukraine, Austria. He was an only child and on May 18, 1900, he emigrated to Canada with his mother and stepfather. The name of the ship was the S.S. Assyria and the port of arrival was Halifax. From Halifax they boarded a train to Winnipeg and from there another train took them to Edmonton. They stayed in the immigration building in Edmonton, located at Strathcona, for four days while awaiting the arrival of their friends to pick them up. Dad's friends met them and took them to a small place called Pozerville Post Office. They travelled to Pozerville with a team of horses pulling a wagon box with their belongings. On the way to Pozerville they had to cross a deep creek and in order to do this safely, they took the wagon box off the wheels and towed it across the creek with a rope while the horses swam across pulling the wagon. It took four days to arrive at Pozerville Post Office which was situated in the exact spot where the town of Two Hills is now.

The Pozervilles were a French family and Mr. Pozerville was a soldier; the Post Office was named for him. Later, when we moved away, the district wrote to Ottawa and asked that the post office name be changed to Two Hills.

There are two hills close together and of the same size and they thought this was a better name.

In 1903 Dad filed for a homestead near Duvernay for ten dollars. Before he could claim ownership he had to build a house, barn and a shed. So off to work he went.

Dad's first job was digging irrigation ditches at Medicine hat for ten cents an hour for ten hours a day, and he paid seventy cents a day for room and board. From there he went to work in the coal mines at Fernie, Crowsnest Pass and Frank. He also worked in the sawmills for Frazer Brothers for several months. Then he went on to Edmonton where he turned a printing press by hand for the Bulletin at 10¢ an hour. While working out, it took several years to cut brush and break land on the homestead as he would do this in between jobs and during the summer months.

On January 22, 1906, Dad married Rachel Orlecki, whose birthplace was Bukovina, Luzan in Austria. Mom came to Canada with her parents in the year 1901 and they settled in the Duvernay area.

Mom and Dad lived with his parents for a year during which time my oldest brother Mike was born at Pozerville. Then they moved to Edmonton in 1907 and lived there for two years where I was born on February 9, 1908. We then moved back to Pozerville to live with Dad's parents again while Dad continued to work out. He would come back for the summer months and Mom and Dad would clear a few acres by hand and all this took a long time and a lot of hard work. Eventually Dad bought two oxen with the money he earned and it made it easier to clear more land.

In 1910 and 1911 Mom and Dad with Grandfather's help, built a log house with two rooms, also a barn and a shed. The house had a roof made out of sheaves of hay which Mom cut with a scythe. The barn and shed had roofs made out of prairie sod. Dad went to work during the winter again so Mom would chop wood for the fire during the daytime and saw logs to be used during the night in the house to keep it warm. In the summer of 1912 when Dad returned to take up full-time farming, we left Grandfather Nikiforuk's place to go to our own home and we were very excited. It was all bush land and narrow trails and travel was slow. Mrs. Kupchenko brought us cottage cheese, a quart of milk and big loaf of home-made bread to welcome us. My brother Bill, sisters Mary and Rose were born at Duvernay.

In 1912 Dad bought three horses from Metro Chmilar of Mundare and managed to break still more land which he seeded and which raised a fair crop. Dad then filed an application for the homestead to the Department of the Interior in Ottawa and in 1913 it was registered in his name. In the year 1947, Dad, then 66 years old, retired because of poor health. He sold the farm and moved to Edmonton where he passed away on July 2, 1955. My brother Bill stayed and looked after Mom until she passed away on August 12, 1973. My brother Bill lives in Edmonton.



The old and new Brosseau-Duvernay bridges side by side, 1978. The old bridge was moved off its piers and the new bridge built on the same location. After the new bridge was completed, the old bridge was taken apart and hauled away to be rebuilt in a new location.

Lane, Charlie and Marjory

by Marjory Lane

Charles Jesse Lane was born in Illinois on April 21, 1899 and at 10 years of age he came with his parents to Coronation, Alta., where they bought a nursery. They soon had to give that up as nothing would grow because of the awful dust storms; the rain never seemed to go south of the Battle River. They moved up to Castor; bought a big house, and as there was no hospital there, Chas.' Mom took in maternity cases and helped others who needed medical attention (she had been a nurse in U.S.A.).



The Lane family, 1977. Back row (l. to r.) — Doreen, Helen, Marjory. Seated — Charlie and Marjory Lane (parents).

Charles went to Castor high school and then to Calgary for further education. Then he taught school at Sullivan Lake, Mynott, and Knobhill, saving enough money to buy a section of land; he thought farming might pay better than teaching. To help with the seeding, Charles hired a young Scotsman emigrant, and then he married the hired man's sister!

I, Marjory M. Lindsay, was born in 1902 in Portsay, 30 miles north of Aberdeen, Scotland where we farmed and my dad was gamekeeper at Lockley-head Castle for a time. I was the eldest of six children; in 1927 with my brother Charlie, two years



Doreen, Marjory and Helen Lane, 1943.



Lanes clearing land, 1928.



Sawing wood on the C. J. Lane farm, 1940. Rear car wheel supplies the motive power.

younger, I decided to move to Canada. When we left Scotland on the 6th of May, the tea roses were in bloom and the gardens loaded with flowers. When we landed in Quebec after a ten-day boat trip, not a blade of grass or flower did we see. It poured rain all five days it took us to go west by train; several people were taken off at Winnipeg with pneumonia. When we arrived at Castor, snow was still lying in the coulees and it was so cold, too. We wished we'd had enough money to turn right around and go back home. Anyway, Castor became my home for about twenty years, as I soon married Chas. Lane and began a family; three daughters: Doreen, Helen, and Marjory. When World War II began, my husband joined the army and went overseas for four and a half years, serving as a gunner in the RCREME in Italy, France, Belgium and Holland. I stayed on the farm with the girls until Chas. returned and decided to leave the farm, moving to Vegreville in 1947.

Charlie Lane began as a Rawleigh dealer in this area and in 1951 he also became a night man at the Vegreville Post Office in 1951. Then he was a rural mail carrier for over 25 years, driving around by Inland, Warwick, Norma, and Royal Park; he had to stop at each mail box at a farmer's gate four times a week.

In 1952 with our youngest daughter I took a trip back to Scotland to help celebrate my parents' 50th Wedding Anniversary. While there for over a year, I underwent a ball-and-socket hip replacement and to help pass the time in hospital I learned to weave on a loom. Daughter Marjory met and married Bill Morgan and we all returned to Canada; they settled in Edmonton, are now in Ontario and I returned to our home on 55 Ave. and 48a St. where I began weaving rugs as pastime. Charlie continued his many activities, such as gardening, making things in his workshop, acting as steward in the Legion clubroom, and keeping active in politics and local affairs. Celebrat-



Combining on Lane Ranch, 1928.



Charlie on Rawleigh Route, 1950's.

ing his 75th birthday, he completed a University correspondence course on Alberta History with high marks. Charlie also received a 25-year service pin from the post office and a 50-year membership plaque from the Alberta Wheat Pool.

He was an active member of the Vegreville Chamber of Commerce and Secretary of the local Sunshine Club. Suffering heart trouble for a number of years, he passed away in August of 1977. I still live in our Vegreville home and still make rugs. Daughter Doreen married Cyril Thorel and they live in Lloydminster. Our daughter Helen is my great companion as she lives in town and visits often. She married Donald Henderson, one of the well-known pioneer Vegreville family, after he returned from service in WW II. They have lived in town since, both employed at a variety of jobs; Don is presently head steward at the Legion clubroom. Helen has been busy raising a family of five: Donna Olinek, St. Albert; Margaret Dirsas, Spirit River; son Jim and his wife Teresa of Edmonton; eleven-year-old twins Shane and Sherri at home, keeping their parents hopping. Helen and Don have four grandchildren so far.

Lang, Rev. and Mrs. George by Heathy Challenger

Rev. Lang, a Presbyterian minister from the Ottawa Valley, came West to Olds in 1908.



Doreen Lane, going "piggyback", 1929.

He was accompanied by his wife and two children. Mrs. Lang was the former Elizabeth Findlay of Carleton Place, Ont. She was the only daughter of the founder of the Findlay Stove Foundry. Her six brothers frowned on her going West as she'd always lived a sheltered life, but she was pioneer material. She made a home for her husband and two stepchildren, James and Louie.

In about 1912 they moved to Vegreville and had charge of the Presbyterian Church, then later Rev. Lang became superintendent of the Mission Homes when Dr. Arthur resigned. They lived for many years in the brick house west of the R.M.B. Hospital.

James and Louie completed their High School in Vegreville, then on to Camrose Normal School, a four-month course at that time. James taught school until the outbreak of World War I when he enlisted. He was severely wounded and on his discharge entered University in the field of medicine. Upon graduation he had a practice in Vancouver until his death in Shaughnessy Military Hospital.

Louie taught in Highlow School, then in Vegreville as Primary Teacher for a number of years. Being an excellent primary teacher her services were sought by the Camrose Normal Practice School Board. She taught there until her marriage to Max Baker who was on the Normal School staff.

They moved to Nova Scotia where she died a few years ago. They had one daughter.

Rev. and Mrs. Lang retired from Mission work to Edmonton where he was supply minister whenever his health permitted. After his death Mrs. Lang continued to live in Edmonton. She had a summer cottage at Seba Beach which provided relaxation for her many friends young and old. As the years took their toll and her health failed, she returned to Carleton Place where she was looked after by a nurse-companion in her old home. She was in her late nineties when she died, leaving many friends in the west to mourn her passing.

Charlie Langpap Family

Charles Langpap is affectionately called "Charlie" by his many friends in town and around the province. Despite a hearing handicap, he offers a sunny smile and the hand of friendship to old and new acquaintances. Charlie served in the Canadian Army Engineers from 1939 to 1945. Since his return to Vegreville, he and his wife, Ann, have taken on various occupations, including Government and town caretaking. Both have been active in Anglican church activities and in Legion work, where Charlie is invaluable as Service Officer, spending countless hours in assisting unfortunate and bereaved Service families. Charlie is a Life Member of the Legion and

a charter member of the Foresters. Charlie and Ann are officially retired now but they still keep on the go. They raised a family of three — Dorothy, Cyril, and Karen — none of whom live here now.

Langpap, Ernest Henry

by Charlie Langpap

My father was born March 20, 1885, at Parker, South Dakota, and was orphaned at the age of four years. Raised by relatives until he was eleven, he was then taken by people named McIntyre who moved to North Dakota. From there they moved to Canada in 1903, taking young 18-year-old Langpap with them. At Leduc they took out homesteads (the office there



Family of Ernest and Annabelle Langpap. Children (l. to r.) — Edwin, Elwood, Charles, Robert, 1916.



Langpap boys (l. to r.) — Robert, Elwood, Maurice (in front), Charles, Lloyd, Edwin, 1932.

DOMINION



LANDS.

INTERIM HOMESTEAD RECEIPT.

No. 16356

Agency,

Manitoba 1904

I Certify that I have received from

Ernest Henry Langpap

of Calman, Alta.

the sum of \$25.00 Dollars, being the office fee for Homestead Entry for S.E.

Quarter Section 14 Township 50 Range 28

West of 1st Meridian, and that the said E. Henry Langpap

is, in consequence of such entry and payment, vested with the rights conferred in such

cases by the provisions of "The Dominion Lands Act," respecting Homestead Rights.

NOTE. All mineral existing on or under the lands herein described, are reserved to His Majesty.

A. J. Harmer

Local Agent.

NOTE.—This Entry is granted under and subject to the provisions of the Dominion Lands Act and its amendments, governing Homestead Entry for Dominion Lands.

Certified that this is a true copy
of the original document shown to me.

Notary Public

My Commission expires December 31, 1975

Ernest Langpap's Homestead receipt — May 27, 1904.

being run at that time by Jas. Holden, later of Vegreville); they settled about thirty miles west of Leduc, Langpap's land being SE-14-50-28-W4. It was rough, bush country with no roads; Dad once carried a fifty-pound sack of flour the thirty miles to his shack. He received his patent March 9, 1908 and sold

this quarter when the move was made to Vegreville in 1915. Mother was born at Belldenville, Wisconsin in 1890 and moved with her parents and family to the Rabbit Hill district in 1905. My parents, Ernest and Annabelle, were married there on November 17, 1909. In 1915, with their first sons, Robert, Charles,

and Edwin, they moved to the old Vegreville district taking the former Dennis farm where they lived and farmed until 1959, all active in Alida community. They retired to town and both parents passed away in 1968, and are buried here. They had three more sons who were educated in Vegreville but have moved to other parts. Bob, who married Millie Steele, worked at Purity 99 for many years before moving in 1969 to Rutland, B.C.; Elwood and Lloyd are both in Ontario; Maurice is in Calgary. Ed is a well-known figure here; he and his wife, Ann, have farmed for many years (on the former Ross place in Alida area); both keep busy in the community, Ed being especially addicted to curling.



Threshing time, 1928.

Lank, Robert and Sarah Taken from the Vegreville Observer 1912

It rarely falls to the lot of those happily married that they are spared to each other for a full half-century. Reports of Golden Weddings are not especially infrequent, but the world is large, and such events are duly chronicled by the press. The only gauge by which one can judge is the personal one. How many readers of the Observer have a personal acquaintance with married couples who have rounded out the fully half-century together. Further, how many such instances can you recall?

On Monday evening, October 21st, 1912, the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Lank, on Main St. north, was the scene of a happy event when their Golden Wedding was duly celebrated amid a large gathering of Vegreville friends and numerous guests from outside points. It would be quite impossible to detail the entire event or do proper justice to the whole-hearted hospitality displayed. The celebration was admirably conceived and carried out flawlessly. And that is about all that can be said on that score.

Mr. and Mrs. Lank, the honored bridegroom and bride, were the recipients of numberless congratulations, and also of those more tangible evidences of



Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Lank, golden wedding, October 21, 1912.

the esteem in which they are both held. And, indeed, congratulations are certainly in order. We felicitate those who are newly married; how much more so should we congratulate those who have proven themselves happily married for half a century.

Mrs. Robert J. Lank, whose maiden name was Sarah J. Watson, is the daughter of George Watson, a Maryland farmer. Her birthday fell on November 8, 1844, and she is, therefore, now nearly sixty-eight years of age. She has one brother living in Delmar, Delaware, and one sister living at Wichita, Kansas.

On October 21, 1862, she was married to Mr. Lank at Greensborough, Md., by the Rev. Wm. Warner, a Methodist minister.

Mrs. Lank is known throughout the district as a famous housekeeper and a cook par excellence. At the annual exhibition of the Agricultural Society she is an inveterate prize-winner in the cookery department. Having at different times surreptitiously sampled some of her exhibits, the writer is in position to know.

Mr. Robert J. Lank had his natal day on May 19, 1835, which makes him now well over seventy-seven years of age. He was born at Frederica, Delaware, being one of the four children of Mr. and Mrs. John Lank. Mr. Lank, the elder, was a ship-carpenter in the heyday of American Maritime commerce. Of the four children but two are living today, Mr. R. J. Lank, and Mrs. S.E. Weeks, the latter residing at Ocean Grove, N.J.

Mr. Lank first entered upon a mercantile career and resided in Greensborough, Md., for fifteen years, seven of them after marriage; later on, Mr. and Mrs. Lank removed to Milford, Del., and resided there for about eight years. The past eleven years they have spent in Canada, seven years on the farm, section 24-52-15, just west of the town, and the last four years in the town.

They have a family of six children as follows: Mrs. S. A. Kirkwood, residing north of town; Howard M., Wilbur and Orlando Lank, all farmers in the district; George W. Lank, residing at Solomn, Kansas; and Clarence D. Lank, a teacher at Udall, Kansas.

Among the guests were many from the town, also from Warwick, Hairy Hill, Mundare, and other adjacent points.

Leach, Ezra and Ettie Leach, John and Marjorie by Frances Cox

In 1902, Ezra and Ettie Leach and son John Forrest, came to Canada from Coleman, South Dakota. They travelled as part of a group of homesteaders, headed by John's grandfather, George Cole, by train to Edmonton. From here they proceeded by wagon to the Vegreville area, where the Leach-Cole family and a number of French-Americans formed the nucleus of the original community of Old Vegreville.

Leach's house was built from wood hauled from a sawmill "up north". Edmonton, at that time was the

end of the steel, and all homesteaders seeking land and moving eastward from Edmonton, followed the trail which led directly through the Ezra Leach farm. This household, therefore, became a stopping-place on the Edmonton-Battleford trail. Etta never knew how many weary travellers might be rolled up in their blankets on the floor each night, and of course, a hearty breakfast would be required. This home also served as a boarding place for teachers who taught in nearby Leachville School.

This first Leachville School was established by Ezra. John began his schooling here; later going to Vegreville High and Okanagan University. However, he was forced to return home to operate the family farm when his father Ezra, 57 years old, died in 1918.

John's marriage to school teacher Marjorie, daughter of Charles E. Shaw, pioneer druggist, united two pioneer families in December 31, 1921. They lived on this farm until retirement in 1948; then they bought a home in town. They had three daughters, Frances Irene, Sherry Eleanor, and Joan Marjorie.

Francis married Jim Cox in 1945. They met in the R.C.A.F. in Ontario. They lived in Edmonton for five years and since 1950 have lived in Vegreville. They have three daughters and three sons. The oldest, Judith, married a Vegreville boy, Ken Pichach. They have Chelsea Ann and Tyler John, and live in Calgary. James John William met his wife, Brenda, at NAIT in Edmonton. Cameron James and Jason Forrest are their children and they live in Sherwood Park. Mary-Lynne married a French boy, Richard Aubin, and now they have Sharla Judith and Matthew Joseph and live in Sherwood Park. David Leach married Kim Edwards in 1976 and lives in Edmonton. Barbara Lyn married a Vegreville boy, Deryk Ziegler, and they live on a nearby Vegreville



A get-together at Atkinson's home in Alida. Leach's farewell, 1948. Leaches leaving the district and moving to Vegreville.



Mr. and Mrs. John Leach golden wedding anniversary, Dec. 31, 1971.

farm, with Timothy Forrest and Kristin Jill. The youngest Cox boy, Vaughn Francis, is attending his third year at the U of A.

Sherry Eleanor Leach married Bob Connell in Edmonton in October, 1948. They now live in Vegreville and have three boys: Terrence Ross, Grant Elliott and Lawrence Clifton. Terry married Rita Geis and their children are Robert Christopher Sean and Heather Lindsay and they live in Edmonton. Grant and Lawrence are in Vegreville.

Joan Marjorie and Gordon Dods married in February, 1959. Their family consists of Fraser and Vincent, who are in grade school. The Dods live in Calgary.

John and Madge Leach were active in community affairs. The centre of social activities in that area was the Alida Hall built in 1935 and named after John's grandmother Alida Cole. It was in this hall that the young teenagers learned that dancing was fun. They went with their parents and everyone enjoyed themselves. Madge belonged to the W.I. and Eastern Star. During his life John promoted better agricultural fairs, eventually becoming President of the Western Canada Fair Board. He was a United Church steward, Red Cross Volunteer, Chamber of Commerce member, Past Master in the Masonic Lodge and a member of the Scottish Rite. John and Madge Leach celebrated their golden wedding on December 31st, 1971. John passed away in March, 1973, at the age of 80 years. Mrs. Leach is now residing in Vegreville.

Lemay, Germaine

by Germaine Lemay

I am Joe Dubuc's cousin, born in Vegreville in 1910, the eldest child of Evariste Dubuc and Alma Poulin; the oldest of 14 children, 9 living at present. We lived in Vegreville until May, 1929, when I left with my parents for a homestead north of Bonnyville.

In 1947 I moved to B.C. with my husband, Antonio Lemay, deceased in 1968 in January. We had our young family of 8 children and I am now living alone.

Lemiski, Thomas

by William Lemiski and son John

Thomas Lemiski was born on December 20, 1891, in Western Ukraine. He emigrated to Canada in June, 1899, with his father Joseph and mother Mary and two brothers, Frank and Paul. Two of his brothers, Peter and George, had emigrated to this country one year prior to them. His sister Katherine remained in Austria. Thomas had one sister and seven brothers, John, George, Frank, Paul, Peter, Sam and Victor.



Bill and Katherine Lemiski's wedding, June 24, 1939, Ceremony was performed by Father Strickland at St. Martin's Church.

Upon arriving at Halifax the Lemiskis travelled by rail to western Canada and settled four miles south of Mundare where they spent the first winter with George Lemiski until their own house was built at Raith (presently known as Royal Park).

Thomas began working on his own at the age of sixteen for Mr. Ryan and continued for three years at an average annual salary of \$100. In 1910 he moved to Revelstoke and worked as a logger for eight months; then he decided to return to Alberta and obtained a homestead in the Plain Lake area. In 1911 he moved to Vegreville and worked for Joe Green at the livery barn. While working for Mr. Green he also drove the R.C.M.P. around and acted as their interpreter. After a while he left that employment and worked as a janitor for eighteen months at the Alberta Hotel.

During this time he married Anostazia Matwe in 1912. Their first son, William, was born in their own home on August 31, 1913. This same house presently stands at its original location, the fourth house west from the National Hall.



Bill and Katherine Lemiski's 40th anniversary, June 24, 1979. Their family, back row (l. to r.): James, Marion, Judy, Johnny, and Jeannette.



Cutting oats for Wallace Wade on 50th Street in Vegreville, south of the Synagogue, where the present Bank of Commerce is, and down to Mr. Wade's home on 47 Ave. and 50th St. Bill Lemiski on the binder and Walter Kisilevich, brother-in-law, on the tractor — a John Deere outfit, 1945.

After his job as a janitor, Tom worked for Worth and Wagner, a dray business, and then in 1914 he was employed by the National Co-op for a period of three years. On November 8, 1915, their second son Stanley was born. In 1917 Tom left employment to move back to Royal Park; he acquired eighty acres of land, built a house and the usual necessary farm buildings. On July 30, 1919, their last child and only daughter, Jeannette, was born. Later on in 1920 Thomas and his family returned to Vegreville and purchased a house in town. This time he was hired by his brother Frank to work in the store which was known as Lemiski and Showkople's General Store. Frank was the manager. It was his daughter Catherine who married Dr. John Yak who practiced medicine in the Vegreville area for several years. Dr. and Mrs. Yak presently reside in Vancouver.

Finally in 1922 Tom bought a farm from Mr. Lank, just west of the present Composite High



Thomas Lemiski and wife and two sons — Bill (left) and Stanley. At Royal Park — their home in the background, 1917.

School where William Lemiski now resides. He had his town house moved to that same location by the moving contractor, Mr. Lisk. The avenue of opportunity became a reality and Thomas founded the dairy business to supply the town with milk and provided door-to-door delivery. He started out with ten customers and eventually that increased to thirty. In 1926 he purchased an additional eighty acres to the east — part of the land where the Vegreville Composite High School is located. In November Tom bought his first automobile, a brand new 1929 Model A Ford which was used by him until 1938 and passed on to his son William. William used the car daily until 1953, where at that time he received a two-hundred-and-fifty-dollar trade-in allowance on a new 1953 Mercury half-ton truck.

The dairy farm was taken over by his son William "Bill" in 1935. Thomas, his wife and daughter moved to Edmonton where they purchased a rooming house that was built in 1912. This building was constructed at the original price of \$8000, however, due to the depression, it was sold to him for \$3000. In 1953 Thomas and Anostazia began travelling extensively throughout Western Canada and the United States. Touring continued on until 1960. They owned and operated the rooming house until 1963 when they sold and moved back to Vegreville. Mrs. Lemiski



Thomas Lemiski's farm in Royal Park. The family horse "Flossie" with Bill, the rider, and father Thomas and Stanley, 1917.

passed away February 11, 1978, at the age of 81. Thomas presently resides at the Homestead Lodge.

William (Bill) Lemiski was born August 31, 1913. He received his education in Vegreville while helping his father during the struggling years. In 1928, at the age of fifteen, he worked several months for a road-construction contractor, Mr. Clark from Pincher Creek, who built Highway 16 going through the town. Bill operated a grader which was pulled by eight horses. When he took the dairy farm over from his father Thomas in 1935, he continued the same operation.

In March, 1936, Bill had a serious accident while fixing a pump, which dropped from a height of forty-two feet cutting off three of his toes. He was hospitalized for three months. As a result, his brother Stanley helped operate the farm for one year. On June 24, 1939, Bill married Katherine Kisilevich from Innisfree. Over the years Bill was able, through unlimited hardship, to increase milk production to 150 quarts per day. In 1945 he discontinued street deliveries because the N.A.D.P. took over the milk distribution sales in Vegreville. As a result of the changeover Bill delivered milk in bulk to the creamery. As the years went by Bill took a deep interest in the dairy business. In 1947 he established a herd of registered Holstein cattle and assigned the name of "Wellview Holstein Farm" to the dairy farm. His goal was to increase butterfat value in the milk he shipped and also to produce a good quality of show



George Shultz and Jack Tillpaugh operated this drilling machine and were drilling wells for the town. There they were drilling just east of Bill Lemiski's home. This machine was later dismantled and used for thawing out culverts in the spring, 1937.

cattle. He showed cattle at many fairs from 1948 to 1965. On May 4, 1966, he sold his dairy cattle and semi-retired.

Although dairy farming took up a lot of time, he was able to participate in the sport of curling and to be active in various clubs and community-supporting involvements.

- a) Curling Rink — Building Committee — 1953
- b) Vegreville Exhibition Board — Life Director
- c) Elks Club — Life Member
- d) Knights of Columbus — 20-year member
- e) St. Martin's Separate School Board — Trustee — 7 years
- f) Vegreville Seed Cleaning Plant — Board Member — 6 years

Bill and Katherine have five children:

Jeannette, born April 16, 1940, presently employed as legal secretary and married to Paul Liber, Manager of Treasury Branch in Red Deer. They have three children.

John, born July 27, 1942, is employed by Alberta Power Ltd. as Supervisor of Administrative Services for the East Division (although office is located in Vegreville he has administrative functional responsibilities for district offices in Vegreville, Lloydminster and Drumheller). Married Sophia Strzepek from Ardmore, Alberta, a Registered Nurse, graduated from St. Joseph's General Hospital in Vegreville and presently employed at this hospital. Because of her husband's transfers with Alberta Power Ltd., she has

worked in a total of six hospitals throughout Alberta and at one time held position of head nurse at the new Misericordia Hospital in Edmonton until her husband was transferred to Drumheller. They have three children.

Judy, born December 10, 1950, is an E.C.G. Technician, married to Greg Liber, a licensed mechanic in Edmonton. They have two children.

Marian, born June 1, 1954, once supervisor of a work unit with Alberta Government in Edmonton, is married to Richard Laschuk — a N.A.I.T. graduate in building construction, presently employed as building construction foreman. They have two children.

James Thomas (Tommy), born July 19, 1956, is a civil engineer graduate from N.A.I.T. He is presently employed with Underwood and McLellan in Edmonton as Field Coordinator. Still single.

Stanley Lemiski, second son of Thomas, was born on November 8, 1915. He received all his education in Vegreville and in 1935 married Lillian Green. That year he obtained work at the copper mine in Aneox, Alaska. After one year of employment, he returned to Vegreville to help his brother Bill operate the farm.

In 1937 he went to work at Copper Mountain, B.C. and remained there until 1942. He then moved to Edmonton and worked on locomotive maintenance with the C.N.R. In 1955 he joined staff with Interprovincial Pipeline in Hardisty where he is presently employed. Stanley and Lillian have two daughters, Donna of Halifax and Jody of Vancouver.

Jeannette Lemiski, daughter of Thomas, was

born on July 30, 1919. She received her education in Vegreville and moved with her parents to Edmonton in 1935. She married Fred Lupul who owned and operated Lupul's Brake Shop in Edmonton for many years. They had three children, Fred, Edward and James, all presently residing in Edmonton. After a lengthy illness Jeannette passed away on October 1, 1967, at the age of 48 years.

Lemiski, Victor and Mary

Victor Lemiski was born in Poland in 1898 and came with his parents and family to a farm one mile south of Raith (now Royal Park). When his parents both died in 1905, Victor was raised by his eldest brother, George, who farmed nearby. It was not an easy childhood, as everyone struggled to make a living. Like other pioneer children, Victor did not get much schooling; he had to do too many chores, often in winter wearing rags wrapped around his feet to keep them from freezing. In 1916 he left the farm to work in Vegreville in Chas. Gordon's Lumber yard; he continued in that job, becoming foreman of the Sash and Door factory under Imperial Lumber, until his death in 1963.

In 1917 Victor married Mary Elkow, daughter of a neighboring farmer. They lived all of their happy married life in the west-side home in Vegreville; good citizens and church workers, Victor was active in the Greek Catholic parish for forty-five years, and Mary also kept busy with the Ukrainian Ladies' club.



Knights of Columbus Provincial Fraternity Bonspiel held in Edmonton, 1962. Championship won by Vegreville K. of C. Council #4249. Back row (l. to r.): Harry Sakaluk — Grand Knight, Eugene Horon — District Deputy. Front row (l. to r.): Ed Kiefiuk — skip, Wm. Lemiski — third, W. Polutranko — second, W. Malarski — lead.



Victor and Mary Lemiski family. Top row (l. to r.): Eugene, Elizabeth, Helen, Eddie. Front row: Victor, Victoria, Mary, 1940.



4 generations of Elkow family: Great-grandmother Helen Elkow, grandmother Mary Lemiski, granddaughter Helen Stachow, great-granddaughter Lillian Stachow, 1943.

Once, when elaborate hats were in style, Mary bought a fancy one for a special church celebration; when she went into the kitchen to do her usual share of work, she was asked to light the gas stove which promptly threw up such a sudden flame that her beautiful new hat was singed — veil, flowers, and all were ruined. Very active at home, in the garden, and in the community, Mary also was assistant matron at the Homestead for several years. She died in 1976.

Victor and Mary raised a family of five. Helen married Frank Stachow; they have lived in town since, except for a time when Frank served in the Air Force. Helen also is active in the community, a long-time member of Hospitals' Auxiliary, and presently assistant matron at the home for Handicapped Adults. They have six children: Lillian McKenzie of California; Marlene Rannie, Edmonton; Joyce Siminiuk, Hinton; Frank, Jr., a budding lyricist, Morinville; Debbie at home; and Michelle who married Steve Iftody and lives in Vegreville with son Troy, one of the many Stachow grandchildren.

The other Lemiskis are: Eugene, Elizabeth Rawluk, and Vickie Kucher, all of Edmonton; and Eddie who lives in Vegreville with wife Hope; they have three daughters. Eddie served in the navy in WW II and then became a carpenter here.

Mr. and Mrs. Stachow, Senior, lived for many years in Frenchtown. Mr. Stachow worked until retirement for the CNR; he died in 1954; his widow died in 1978.

Lessard, Philip and Gilberte

by Gilberte Lessard

Philip and Gilberte Lessard moved from Beauvallon to Vegreville in 1951. They had a family of six: Jackie Oscar of Leduc with four children and one grandchild; Raymond at home; Adele who lives at Fort Saskatchewan with her husband Brian McDonald and their three children; Albertine and Ron Stang of Hanna with five children and one grandchild. Leo and wife Mary reside in their new home in north Vegreville with their four children; all of them are sports fans, Leo and his sons being especially active in local fastball and hockey. Marcella and Ian Nuttall live in town with their little child. Philip and Gilberte are now retired and enjoy family visits, fishing and hunting, and Bingos; Gilberte is an expert at crochet, and Philip is a faithful usher at St. Martin's church.

Lorenson, William and Anna

by Mrs. Ada Hughston (Dunn)

In March, 1903, William and Anna Lorenson and three children left Terril, Iowa, U.S.A. by train with their machinery, furniture and belongings and landed in Wetaskiwin, Alberta. They lived there until the fall, then moved by team and wagon to a house that was owned by a Mr. Facey about five miles from the homestead — N.W. quarter section 4, township 54, range 13, west of the 4th meridian. They lived in the Facey house that winter and next summer, while Mr. Lorenson was building a log house on the homestead.

The closest Post Office was about six miles from the homestead. Mr. Wm. Woods had the P.O. The name of the P.O. was Warwick, named after a neighbor, Mr. Warwick. The Woods house was also known as the stopping-house. In 1904 and 1905 there was a school built in the Warwick district and named Fairwood after Mr. Robert Fairbairn and Mr. William Woods.

In 1904 Mr. Grace and Mr. Ziegler built a store in Warwick. In 1905 there was still no school built in the Lorenson's district.

They moved to Vegreville so Ada and Edward could go to school. Mr. Bill Lorenson worked in the



Jim and Ada Hughston and family. Left to right: Wesley, Edmund, Opal, Calvin, and Lyle in middle, 1944.



Anna and William Lorensen, parents of Ada Hughston Dunn, 1898.

livery barn. Then in the spring of 1909 they all moved back to the homestead for the summer, back again in the fall so the children could go to school. In 1913 a school was built on the Lorensen corner.

Mr. and Mrs. William Lorensen had six sons and three daughters. In later years Mr. Lorensen was a homestead land guide and drove men around looking for homestead land. He passed away in 1946 and his wife Anna in 1947.

Mr. and Mrs. Lorensen had a family of nine children. Sons: Willard, Edward, Fred, George, Ralph and Harold. Daughters: Ada, Margaret and Helen. (Harold and Helen were twins)



Lorensen family, 1928.



Billy Woods' (1900-1911) homestead house at Old Warwick (3 miles east of Warwick). Fairwood School and Warwick hamlet were on bank of Vermilion River. Old Warwick, with its post office and store, was an early stopping place. The house and land was owned by the Woods family till 1945, when it was sold to Walter and Opal Gafka.

OLDEST ACTING GUIDE IN THE HEINSBURG DISTRICT
(35 YEARS IN DISTRICT)

EX-GOVERNMENT GUIDE, PROSPECTOR & LAND VALUATOR

WILLIAM O. LORENSON
HOMESTEAD LAND GUIDE
HEINSBURG ALBERTA

WELL LOCATED FREE HOMESTEAD LANDS FOR MIXED FARMING
NEAR RAILWAY LINES AND MARKETS. GOOD SOIL. BEST OF WATER
GOOD HUNTING AND FISHING

I PERSONALLY CONDUCT PARTIES TO THE LAND
William O. Lorensen homestead land guide credential, 1920's.

Willard died when young.

In 1921 Ada married James Hughston and lived in Warwick. The couple had one daughter Opal and four sons, Edmond, Calvin, Wesley and Lyle. James Hughston was in the 1918 war and in 1939 to 1945 war. He passed away in 1954. In 1961 Ada married Rod Dunn. Rod passed away in 1969.

Also in 1921, Edward married Hazel Emery. Hazel passed away; in 1960 Edward married Marie Venne. Edward and Hazel had two sons and four daughters. Ada and brother Edward's first marriage was a double wedding.

Margaret married widower Pete Moren. They had one son. By Pete's first marriage there were two sons and three daughters.

Ralph Lorenson and Mary had six sons.

George Lorenson married May Ferguson. To this union were born five daughters and one son.

Fred Lorenson married Audrey Nelson and the couple had one son and one daughter.

Harold and Helen Lorenson were twins. Harold married Josie Pankie and they had one son and one daughter.

Helen married Steve Pankie and the couple had two daughters and one son. Steve passed away. Helen then married Bill Crook and they had two sons. Bill died in 1972. In 1974 Helen married Frank Geortzen.

In the early 1900's there used to be terrible prairie fires. Neighbors would get together to plow fire guards and used wet rags to pound out the fire. Ada remembers a time when father was away from home and mother could see a prairie fire approaching. She tied the horses by the house and used pails and pails of water from a well to wet the ground around the house. Farmers came to help but the wind changed direction. The children were frightened.

Ada Lorenson, Hughston, Dunn

November 30, 1921 — Ada Lorenson married Jim Hughston.

July 28, 1954 — Jim Hughston passed away.

April 22, 1961 — Ada married Rod Dunn.

September 22, 1969 — Rod Dunn passed away.

Jim and Ada Hughston had one daughter and four sons. Daughter — Opal Ina Pearl born October 19, 1922. Son — Edmond Lee born January 6, 1925. Son — Calvin James born October 17, 1927. Son — Wesley Hugh born May 15, 1929. Son — Lyle Marvin born December 28, 1938.

Walter Gafka and **Opal** were married October 30, 1946 and had four daughters: Brenda Gail born April 3, 1948. Judy Karon born May 22, 1950. Sharlene Ellen born May 5, 1956. Lorretta Faye born July 2, 1959.

Eddie and Mariette Venne were married July 15, 1949 and had two sons and one daughter. Dwayne Clark born July 27, 1950. Dale Merlin born July 23, 1952. Marilyn Lea born January 9, 1955.

Calvin and Pat Kjorlien were married September 30, 1949 and have one son and three daughters. Brian James born November 28, 1951. Bonnie Lynn born February 6, 1950. Lynn Marie born October 8, 1958. Lori Fay born February 5, 1964.

Wesley and Jean Hantiuk were married August 27, 1952 and have one son and four daughters. James Wesley born December 6, 1953. Laura Lynn born July 4, 1956. Elizabeth Ann born October 22, 1957. Gwen Ellen born September 9, 1959. Marjorie Dawn born July 4, 1965.

Lyle and Jean Stewart were married August 22, 1959 and have three daughters. Susan Fay born July 7, 1960. Donna Elaine born April 5, 1966. Sharon Lea born July 16, 1967. (See p. 160, 161.)

Lowe, Chester and Thelma by Chester Lowe

Thelma's father, Charles Ernest Chandler, came to Canada in the spring of 1906, arriving in St. John, New Brunswick, nine days out of Liverpool, England. He worked on a farm near Killarney, Manitoba, for one year, then returned to London to marry Ellen Jane Dufield of Greenwich, borough of London. He worked around Killarney, Man., for several years where their three oldest children were born. He then moved to Vancouver to manage a grocery store. In 1916 he came to Peace River District and homesteaded SE 33-72-10-W6 northwest of Beaverlodge.

Thelma has one brother, Fred, and four sisters, Vera Eastman, Nellie Green, Gladys Boyd and Grace Brokop. Their mother passed away in April, 1934, in Grande Prairie. She was a wonderful woman. Her passing left an empty place in the community that was hard to fill. Her death was a real shock because she was the centre of the whole family. Be it joy, sorrow or a little advice, she always told the truth.

Chester Lowe was born to Jacob P. and Prudence (Quinn) Lowe April 20, 1900, at Hillside, about eight miles north of Huntsville, Ontario. The family moved west in August, 1909, to Stony Plain. For a month they stayed at the home of Mr. McMillan, who farmed southeast of Stony Plain, till a house was found in the town. The Grand Trunk Railroad Company had not built very far west and the town was the first on the line.

Chester Lowe was raised with a large family of three brothers and ten sisters. He was lucky because he was in the middle with lots of help when he needed it. Later on he looked after the smaller ones. There was no such thing as being lonesome or out of a job.

After leaving Stony Plain the family moved to a quarter-section without buildings, one mile west and two and a half miles north of Winterburn Store. The next year this farm was sold for one hundred dollars an acre. A down payment was received and that was it. The family moved several times but lived and farmed in the same district until the spring of 1925.

Chester and his brother, Maurice, enlisted in the 1914 Battalion the first week in February. They left Calgary October 31, 1916. Maurice was a machine-gunner in the 49th Battalion where he was gassed. This bothered him in later years. He was hit with shrapnel twice and carried one small piece till 1966 when it came out of his back. He was hit again at Cambria with a machine-gun bullet and walked four miles to a dressing station. Two other boys from Edmonton, Coffee and O'Brien, were hit at the same time but they stayed where they were at. Maurice received his M M shortly after Vimy.

Chester was 4H, fit and trained, but under age. There were about twenty-eight hundred of that rank. At one time the powers that be were going to make one unit and have them all together, but that didn't turn out well. While at Bramshot, Chester was discharged as under age. As far as he got on that trip was to sit on his pack all day on the parade ground. When the parade ground cleared at 5 PM he went to the Orderly Room to find out what the score was and was told, "You are too big to go back to Canada, we are sending you to N.C.O. School." That took six weeks and it was no laughing matter. The one in charge was an Imperial Army R.S.M. "Now laugh, d—— you." Around the middle of May, 1917, he went to France. On a badge, issued to him, is printed "For

Service At The Front." He was never at the front, just under shell fire.

Going back to the days of 4H. They were the "Joe Boys." It didn't matter what had to be done, they did it. They picked up papers on the parade ground, did guard duty and paraded and marched past the "Brass Hats." They were told they had the highest average on the rifle range.

The family lost their mother in December, 1924. That was a real shock because she had never been sick before. She never had time. There was no one to ask where this or that was, now it was look for it yourself. There was no one to go to if you had troubles. They had a sale and the family moved to Vegreville. Chester went to work for Allan Brebner for whom he had worked before.

In the fall of 1926 a trip was planned to see the Peace River country. Ross Cawston, Maurice Lowe, and Chester left by car, a Buick Touring 1919. It was black with yellow wooden wheels. You could open the exhaust by pushing a control on the floor.

Leaving Edmonton at 1300 hours they drove until they came to some tough road. Then they camped for the night. Next morning the road was just as bad as it was the night before. While Maurice examined it the other two loaded up and got ready to go. Ross drove. Maurice had his little axe with him, but it was not as bad as it looked. When they came over a little hill they had company, a one-ton Ford truck, a Chev car, and a Ford car, all stuck in a mudhole. It sure looked hopeless. Maurice fished out his little axe and went down to see what help he could give to Mr. and Mrs. Gergon Johnson, two daughters and two sons, Ruth and Grace, Carl and Oliver. There was lots of dry fire-killed spruce of any size needed and it was not long before they had the truck out. Then Mrs. Johnson made dinner and invited everyone to share it. It took awhile to build a corduroy road and get the rest across. They arrived in Smith about 1800 hours. Next day they were told they would have to load onto railroad flat cars and ship to High Prairie because the road was impassable. They ordered two flat cars and waited three days for them. It took all day to load. The next day a freight train picked them up and all the passengers rode in the caboose. At noon they needed some water to make coffee so one of the boys jumped off and with a pail dipped water from the ditch. He ran, caught up with the train, and jumped back on.

They arrived in High Prairie in time to unload before dark. The next morning everything was white and when the sun came up it was hard to see. Mr. Johnson took the lead and Chester rode with him. The road allowance had been cleared and burnt and places dug out for culverts which were about a foot deep. When they hit the first one it was sure a sur-



Mr. and Mrs. Chester Lowe — their 50th Wedding Anniversary. Children — Back row (l. to r.): Ronald, Eldred, Darcy. Middle row (l. to r.): Mrs. Shirley Bienvenu, Mrs. Audrey Miller, 1979.

prise. Mr. Johnson's pipe was jolted right out of his mouth and there was smoke and fire all over the place. He filled his pipe again and they took off for Peace River Crossing. Arriving at the top of the hill the headlights did not show any more road. One of the other cars took the lead and they made it to the bottom O.K.

The next day they had dinner before leaving for Dunvegan. The roads were good and they made good time, arriving before dark. The next morning the Peace River was running full of ice and no ferry ran. They stayed for a week but the ice kept coming. Ross and Chester thought it would be better to go across and get a job for the winter because it seemed as if winter was there to stay. Next morning the ferryman, Mr. Kerr, Victoria Cross (he won the medal at Somme, France, 1916) and his two sons, fourteen and sixteen, paddled across the river while Ross and Chester tried to keep the ice away from the boat. The boat had to be taken about sixty rods upstream to allow for the drift. If they missed the ferry landing it was tough to climb the bank. They made it O.K. Nothing would have induced Ross and Chester to make that trip again, but they silently watched as the boys returned to the other side. They started up the hill on the south side. There was about four inches mud and snow and they would take one step forward and slide two back. It took a long time to get to the top. They arrived in Spirit River 1600 hours and had no dinner as yet. Ross met some friends from back home in Manitoba and they took both men home with them. The next day the ferry ran and the rest of the party arrived at Spirit River about 1500 hours, had lunch, started for Grande Prairie, had supper, then on to Wembley. That was a long, hard day. Wembley was the end of the steel at that time. Monday morning they left the Sunset Prairie and stayed overnight with a family who had farmed in the Vegreville district.

They saw a threshing machine close to the road on the Fred Pack place. Having nothing else to do they walked over to see it. One of the pitchers came around the stack and when he met Maurice they stopped and stared at each other. They had stayed together in Passchendaele, France, and were on the same gun crew (Lewis machine gun). Each thought the other had been killed and they were sure glad to see each other. Percy Stevens took them to his home, a grand place near the Beaverlodge River. There they met his mother, his brother Ernie, and sister Gertey. After a few days of looking around Maurice rented some land and returned to Vegreville. Ross went to Bill Huges and hauled grain to Wembley the rest of the winter. In the spring Bill had a sale.

Chester stayed with the Stevens' and hauled grain to Wembley. They were a good outfit to work for



Chester Lowe, cat-skinner, going up ferry on Wapiti River, July, 1936.

because they had good horses and lots of good feed. They built a special box to haul grain. First they took the small bunks off the sleighs and put on seven-foot-six-inch ones and let out the reach three feet. The box was seven feet six inches by fourteen feet and three and a half feet deep. There was one pulled into Wembley with a box eight by sixteen by four feet deep. A joker took a look at it and asked the owner why he took the roof off.

While working around the Beaverlodge district Chester met Thelma Chandler. They were married in Beaverlodge United Church July 7th, 1929.

The young couple homesteaded six miles west of Hythe. Chester worked for the Dept. of Public Works on roads from Valleyview on the east to the B.C. boundary on the west, north to Rycroft and south across the Wapiti River. For thirty-five cents an hour he ran a Twenty Gas Caterpillar tractor pulling a twelve-foot Western Austin grader. The ferry was too small to carry both machines so they loaded the "cat" and took it across. Then they came back and hooked a long cable from the "cat" to the grader and pulled it across.

The Wapiti ferry was urgently needed by the settlers on the south side of the Wapiti River. If you forded it one way, you were not sure you could do it on the way back. The settlers went to Mr. McQuarrie, the engineer for the Dept. of Public Works, to see what help they could get. He told them to get lumber and pile it to dry for one summer and then be ready to help build the ferry. He would get a man to oversee the building of it and would supply the hardware. Cliff Henderson, a bridge foreman, came and the people got their ferry. When spring came the ferry was launched but there was no one to run it. Finally, Mr. Otto Sorley got the job. The settlers brought bread, meat, butter, cream, or anything they thought he needed as payment for his services.

In January, 1941, Chester joined the R.C.A.F. After training as an aero engine mechanic he was

posted to Calgary No. 3S.F.T.S. He was there for four years and was discharged October 10th, 1945.

After leaving the Air Force Chester came to Vegreville and farmed land belonging to Henry Ziegler. He later bought it through the D.V.A. and the family farmed with the help of Jack Lowe, George and Henry Ziegler, friends and neighbors. It was good to know that help could be had when it was needed. Chester, Thelma and family will always be most thankful to these people for their help.

Chester and Thelma Lowe have three boys and two girls.

Darcy W. married Jennie A. Scibish July 10, 1954.

Children — Darrien D., Leanne S., Sheldon B., Shaun M.

Eldred A. married Gladys M. Hughston June 25, 1954.

Children — Ricky A., Randy P., Brad E., David C.

Ronald W. married Elaine E. Miller July 7, 1957.

Children — Janelle C., Miles W.

Audrey E. married Gordon J. Miller April 16, 1956.

Children — Charlene E., Craig G., Beverly A., Cameron G., Grant J. C.

Shirley A., married Sonny Bienvenu December 2, 1961.

Children — Robin J., Roxanne M., Sherry L. Two great-grandchildren are Jeffery Craig Miller and Owen Wayne Nelson.

In January, 1956, Chester developed trouble with his eyes. He was sent to Dr. T. A. Boyd who at that time was setting up a Glaucoma Clinic, the first one west of Toronto. After his operation he had no sight in the left eye and less than ten percent in the right eye. After a few more years on the farm he had to retire before he got hurt, or worse yet hurt someone else. Ronald and family took over the farm and Chester and Thelma moved to Vegreville. Amen.

Lowe, Jacob Peter and Prudence by Betty Lowe

Jacob Peter Lowe was born at Georgetown, Ontario on March 10, 1860. He married Prudence Quinn in April, 1890, and he farmed in Muskoka, Ontario about 100 miles north of Toronto. In the winter he worked in lumber camps. In 1909 he came West with his wife and 10 children: Dora, Maurice, Jack, Susie, Aggie, Chester, Myrtle, Edna, Edith and Esther. Four more children were born to them out west: Marjorie, Irene, Joe and Eva.

They lived in Stony Plain while he and the two oldest boys, Maurice and Jack, worked on the railroad west of Stony and helped build the Grand Trunk

as far as McBride. In 1911 he bought a farm one mile west and two and a half miles north of the Winterburn Store. Two years later they moved to Spruce Grove Center on the Napoleon La Rue farm, and in 1917 they moved to the Atkinson place. Three years later he bought a quarter south of Winterburn, which he later sold to John Suder, after his wife passed away in 1924. They had a sale in the spring of 1925 and moved to Vegreville where he built a house on Jack Lowe's farm; his three youngest children, Irene, Eva and Joe went to school at Vermillion School. He later moved to Beaverlodge and made his home with his daughter Esther and was there until he passed away in January, 1948 at the age of 89. He was buried in a small cemetery just west of the overpass on Highway 16, just east of Spruce Grove.

Lowe, John and Elizabeth by Elizabeth (Ziegler) Lowe

I met Jack Lowe five years before we were married in 1920.

Jack was born in Dwight, Ontario, in 1894. His family came out West in 1909, to Stony Plain. There was no future for a large family in Ontario. Jack often told us about all the stones on their land and he picked stones until his hands were blistered and every year there were more stones to pick.

They read a lot about the West opening up, where you could buy farms and raise grain crops. Mr. Lowe (Jacob) decided to go out West and see for himself. He took his oldest son, Maurice, with him. He was pleased with what he found and sent for his family.

The railroads were laying tracks and had a large crew to go ahead blazing the trail, and Mr. Lowe, Maurice and Jack went to work on the railroad. There were no heavy gas-driven tractors, but they worked with horses and mules. Jack got to be quite expert in driving and handling mules. He even started to chew tobacco and smoke! The older guys cheered him on and that made him think they really couldn't get along without him! He started to gamble too. Someone told his dad and he went up to where Jack was working to bawl him out and before he got started, Jack handed him his pay cheques and a few cheques of the men that he was working with. Needless to say, his dad was pleased as they really needed the money for the rest of their family at home in Stony Plain.

Later Mr. Lowe decided to buy a farm and they moved to several farms until he bought a quarter four miles south of Winterburn. There were fourteen in the Lowe family — four boys and ten girls — Dora, Maurice, Jack, Susie, Aggie, Chester, Myrtle, Edna, Edith, Esther, Marjorie, Irene, Eva, and Joe. When Joe was five years old, they lost their Mother — December 6, 1924.



The Jack Lowe family, 1970, on the occasion of Jack and Betty Lowe's 50th wedding anniversary. Back row (l. to r.) - John Sanford, Edward Sanford, Arnold Sanford, Jim Durie. Front row (l. to r.) — Jack Lowe, Betty Lowe, Gordon Sanford, Grant Durie, Christine Durie, Dorothy Sanford and Elizabeth Durie.



Aerial photo of Jack Lowe's farm, 1952. Jack bought this land from John Trimble in 1921; at that time there were no buildings nor cultivated fields.

Later Mr. Lowe had a sale and sold his farm and came to Vegreville.

In 1915, Maurice and Chester joined up in the services and were sent directly overseas. Jack stayed home and helped on the farm.

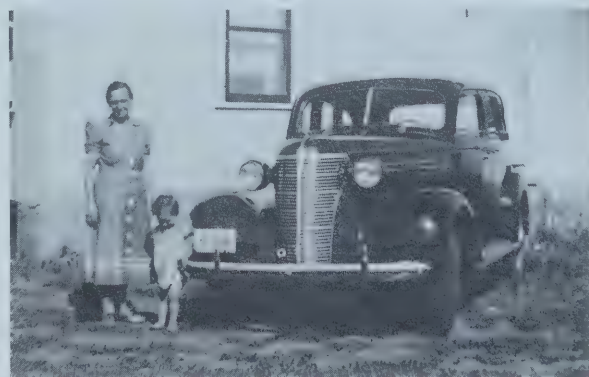
Later, when the boys came home, he decided to take some courses at the Hemphill School in Edmonton. He had his papers for running a steam engine and was an engineer all through threshing. Now he wanted to learn more! Frank Allore told me when his Dad bought his first car, his Dad sent Frank (16 years old) to Hemphill to learn to run the family car. Jack Lowe was his instructor. A month after Jack started, they promoted him to a Driver Instructor. For everyone he taught to run a car he was paid \$5.00 (that was good pay in 1918). He was doing real well. I wanted

him to continue in that school; after having lived on a farm all my life, the city life looked real good to me. But Jack liked the farm and he won out.

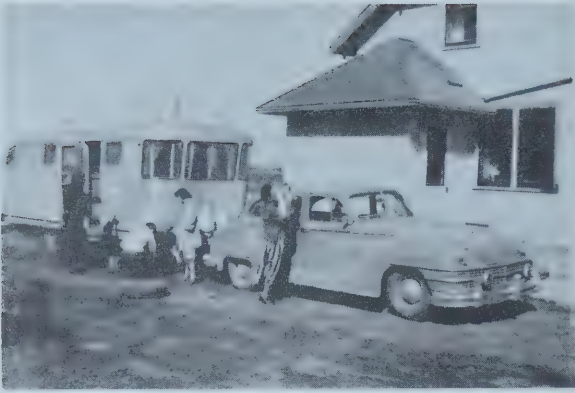
He had given all the money he earned to his mother and he came to Vegreville to work for Henry Ziegler. Jack and I were married here in Vegreville by Rev. Hughes, in my sister Barbara Ferguson's home, April 28, 1920. John Ziegler (my brother) was our best man and Nellie Cameron my bridesmaid.

Jack and I came to town from "Do Drop In" with a horse and buggy through lots of snowbanks. John came in with a team and a wagon that had a large gas tank on it. It looked like the water tank for a steam engine, but a little smaller tank. Henry had a large gas tractor with lots of ploughs behind. It was a late spring and when they started to put in the crop, May 12, they kept that engine running night and day. Between John and Jack, they had a lot of acres to put in.

Jack and I lived in one of the bunk houses in Henry's yard. I fixed it all up with curtains, like a doll house. We sent to Eaton's for most of our furniture: a "Matchless B" stove, for \$45.00; a kitchen cabinet for \$47.50. Dorothy has the cabinet in her home now. We got an iron bed, with a hard mattress. Later I bought some ticking and filled it with clean, threshed straw, nearly as good as my Grandmother's feather ticks. We got a brand-new white dresser for \$15.00 (all the things we bought were brand new), a table and six chairs that are still being used after 69 years (no rungs missing). We paid \$1.60 a chair, the table was \$9.00 and a rocking chair \$8.00. We also bought a set of dishes, not 4 or 6 or 8 settings, but 12 settings. The whole set of 12 — dinner plates, dessert plates, bread and butter plates, cups and saucers, fruit dishes, porridge dishes with a 2-inch flange around, 2 large vegetable bowls with lids, sugar and cream, gravy boat and little tray, a large platter and a middle-sized one — all 95 pieces for only \$23.00. We also



Mrs. John Lowe and daughter Elizabeth by their brand new 1938 green Chevrolet car. The car was even used to herd cattle, with the help of their faithful dog.



Jack and Betty Lowe getting ready to go South, 1951. (L. to r.) George Ziegler, Jack Lowe, Dorothy Sanford and Betty Lowe with Grandson John Sanford.

got cutlery (stainless steel was unheard of at that time), pots and a frying pan, a tea kettle, and a coal oil lamp. Later we got an Aladdin lamp that was advertised for \$10.00 in the Farmer's Advocate. Oh yes, we also bought a washboard and a pounder, a funnel with a handle on it, and a washtub and boiler. In the summertime, I put the tub out on our porch, put the heated water in the tub and scrubbed all the clothes. I had another boiler full of water heating on the stove. By then I had about five little piles of clothes washed through (scrubbed, I mean). I put the tea towels and pillow slips and our white clothes in the boiler, added home-made soap and boiled them — not too long. By then Jack would be in for dinner and he would carry the boiler of clothes and dump them in the tub, and fill the boiler again for the rinse water. Meanwhile, I warmed up our dinner that was left over from our Sunday dinner. Wash day we had a few short cuts. Sometimes we were able to iron the clothes off the line. We had 3 graduated sizes of irons — 1-2-3 — and a wooden handle to snap on the iron. Even if it was hot outside, we had to keep the fire on to heat the irons. It would be twice as hot in the house. I even baked bread. I do not remember buying bread until 1940. Then it was 6 loaves for 25¢. One loaf for 5¢. Jack used to take our own wheat to the closest mill and bring home 12 to 14 large bags of flour and some bran.

In 1921, we had Dorothy, so a highchair and crib were added — and more clothes to wash. By this time Aggie had two little girls, Jennette and Barbara, and we shared our work and had lots of coffee parties between ourselves. Aggie always had one of her sisters to help her out. There were always hired men around.

Jack found a quarter of land and bought it in 1921, from John Trimble who used it for pasture land. Jack got a well drilled and then built a little house a few

steps from the well. Next he built a barn, a big granary, and a garage with a workshop. He couldn't be without a workshop. He was always repairing things for himself and anyone else who had to have something fixed. He had a forge — the only one of its kind around; in all the breaking he did, he always sharpened his own shares. So many times I heard his hammer on the large anvil.

Mr. Trimble had another quarter of land just west of ours and Jack bought it in 1927. We now had the south ½-34-52-15-W4.

When we started to farm, we had six good horses — Tony and Frank, Connie and Bell, and Roanie and Mary. I do not remember him doing any breaking with horses.

Jack's first tractor was an old style Mogal. He got it cheap as no one could run it. He overhauled it and did a lot of breaking with it until it earned him a Titan. Then the Titan did some breaking and earned Jack a 15-30 International. That's when I was introduced to this new tractor and learned how to run it. For some reason Jack was running it on coal oil, but it had to be started with gas. You had to crank it too, and there was a choke and a spark that had to be regulated very carefully, or it would flood — then it would be harder to start than it was the first time!

Then Jack told me, "Run it for a quarter round, then turn the coal oil on and turn the gas off — don't let it stop!" Well, it took a lot of new kinds of words before I could regulate it. Jack wasn't worried; he had the four-horse team on the drill in another part of the field. When he saw me stopped too long, he would come over to see if he could help me . . . so nice of him! By the time he got in speaking distance, he'd hear me calling his International everything but an International, and he'd say, "Oh, my goodness!" I got pretty good at running things with coal oil!

We didn't have a car at that time, only a little truck that Jack had remodeled from an old Chev and it was a touchy piece of bolts, too. It had a spark and a choke and had to be cranked. Jack's dad, Jacob Lowe, was living with us at the time. He wanted to go to town. Jack was busy so he filled the truck up with gas and said I was to take his dad to town. Jack went out to the field and we went to town. Well! I just couldn't run it. I was embarrassed to have his dad find me in this predicament. It coughed, it smoked, it stopped every little while, but I finally got it herded into Vegreville and stopped it in front of the Thomas Garage. Merl Thomas was a good friend of ours and he came out when he heard me stop, and asked, "What's the matter?" I said, "Don't ask me, I got it here but I'm not taking it home until you fix it." He said that there couldn't be much the matter with it.

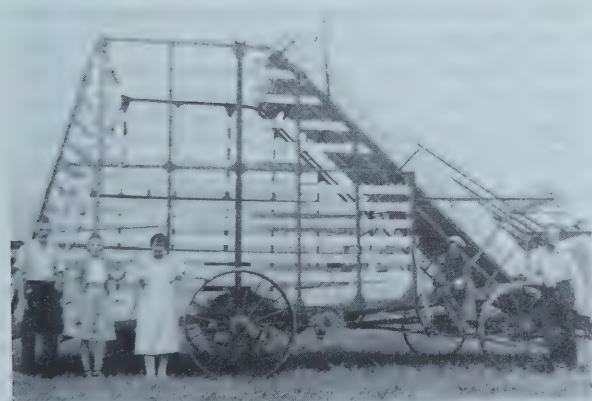
I had left Jack's dad uptown and I went up too,



Sunday company at Jack Lowe's home, 1954. (L. to r.) — Edward Sandord, Dorothy Sanford, Kate Suder from Biggar, Sask., Grandma Suder from Winterburn, Grandma Lowe with Arnold, John Sanford, Rex Cunningham, Evelyn Cunningham, Allan Cunningham, Jack Lowe, Edwin Cunningham, Bruce Cunningham, Clifford Cunningham down in front. The dishes were put out to catch water for batteries for the windcharger.



Jack Lowe working with this crew on the railroad, west of Edmonton, 1910.



Stook loader Jack Lowe bought at Penzance, Saskatchewan, in 1942. (l. to r.) — Bill and Jessie Ziegler, Mrs. Ankrom — a widow who sold the loader, her hired man, and Jack Lowe. Later Jack Lowe sold the loader to Major Frank Fane.

came back two hours later and they still couldn't find a thing the matter with it. They were still working on it; they had a ticket hanging on the steering wheel with all the things they checked out. Merl did look at me with a little respect, though, because he had tried to run it and it wouldn't even start! When I came in, he had the look in his eyes — "Women Drivers" —



George Ziegler, road boss, and Jack Lowe, councillor — grading and widening road in front of Jack Lowe's place, 1942.



After their marriage in 1920, Jack and Betty Lowe sent to T. Eaton's for most of their furniture, including this cabinet for \$47.50. The clock on top was bought at Mr. Price's Jewelry Store in Vegreville for \$7.95, in 1922. Both are still in use.

but what a changed man now! He asked me if we had a ride home and I said if we couldn't find a ride I would be back.

So I went back uptown, found Jack's Dad and saw George, my brother, who has helped me out more than once. He took us home. When Jack came in for supper and he couldn't see the truck, he asked me what I did with it. So I told him and then again I had this feeling of him wanting to say "Women Drivers!" After supper he walked to town and helped them to



Mrs. Betty Lowe getting ready for her first plane ride, Vancouver, 1948. The pilot is Dr. Victor Schultz.



Amiel Ziegler bought the organ in Edmonton for \$115.00, 1901. All his four daughters took music lessons on this organ. Playing it is Betty Lowe, Amiel's youngest daughter who now owns it, 1970's.

discover there was coal oil in the tank instead of gas. The garage had put coal oil in a gas barrel; the gas barrels were red and the coal oil barrels were grey.

In 1924, we had a little girl, Beatrice Prudence. Prudence was Jack's mother's name. She was just learning to talk well when we lost her with a severe case of Cholera Infantum on September 19, 1926. She called Jack "Jaddy". Grandpa Lowe was living beside us and she followed him around. She couldn't keep up to us, but Grandpa was her speed. He looked after her a lot — was so good to her. I was so lonesome for her, I started to go out with Jack to the field — anything he was doing — fixing fences, even riding the tractor with him. He soon had me running it while he did other jobs.

Dorothy had Joe and Eva Lowe to play with and then she went to school with them later.

In 1927, we bought our first power binder. It took two to run the outfit, so I got the job of running the tractor and Jack ran the binder — I mean, sat on the seat. I decided that was easier than running the tractor, but that didn't last long! I let the binder plug up, so back to the tractor I went.

Our International Agent was Louis Knies, a very good friend of Jack's. They were always helping each other out, and Jack was a faithful International man all the time he farmed. We even had an International fridge in our kitchen! They used to go out west of Edson on hunting trips — I do not remember them ever bringing home any wild meat, but they talked a lot about what they saw and shot at and just missed. . .

Jack later bought an International separator and we did our own threshing and for the neighbors. Dorothy followed in our footsteps. She was only twelve when she would come home from school, change her clothes, and come out to the tractor when Jack or I would be out in the field. She would ride around with either of us, not for long, until she had her dad talked into letting her run it — all — by herself! She was so small she could hardly reach the clutch or brake. She grew up on a tractor and graduated to the threshing machine. She would move the outfit and line it up in the belt while Jack was unloading the truck of grain. If I needed help in the house, I had to get a girl to help me. Usually we had Indians helping thresh and there would be several tents of them in a bluff close by. I would get one of the girls to help me. I found them very nice and they were glad to get a little cash, too. We always had ten or twelve men to feed. We fed them well. For breakfast they would have fried potatoes, sliced cold meat, pickles, bread and butter, milk, coffee, fruit, jam; for dinner — roast beef, gravy, potatoes, two vegetables, salad and pickles, bread, butter, tea, milk, pies one day and

pudding the next; for supper — fried spuds, vegetables, pickles, sliced meat, fruit, iced cake. They also had a big lunch in the field every afternoon.

We always pulled our dining-room table out full-length, maybe 4 or 5 boards in. We would buy a new table oilcloth — white or a pretty flowered one. The table always looked so nice, all set for them to come in to eat. Cooks always ate later.

Alex Ziegler bought the first combine in our family in 1930. John Ziegler had the first combine in the Park Grove District in 1941. The Second World War was at this time and hired help was hard to get. Jack decided to look for a stook-loader. He found an ad in the Free Press and answered it. We went to Saskatchewan to look at it and Jack bought it. We used it one year and sold it to Major Fane and ordered a combine for our 1943 crop.

Dorothy got married to Edward Sanford, a farmer, and she was running their own combine, so I had to learn to run a combine. I didn't mind. I like being outside. I never did like housework. I'm not one to wash on Monday, iron on Tuesday, mend on Wednesday, churn on Thursday, wash floors on Friday, bake on Saturday, turn the mattress every two weeks, etc. I never have done spring house cleaning. I clean my house when it needs it — anytime of the year — any hour of the day! I don't need to be on schedule to keep busy; I crochet, knit afghans, ponchos, scarves, tams, sweaters, etc., I paint pictures. I have an art room in one corner of my basement, an electric organ in another corner in my front room where I play for my own amusement, and I write letters, and keep up a daily diary for the last 51 years. I have taken courses at the University every May for the past three years. I have lots of company that I enjoy and I like a good game of bridge. I have my family all close by. I have so many things to be thankful for!

Jack was a hard-working man. We helped one another on the farm and he was always helping someone. I remember Dr. Armstrong, a wonderful man and a good friend. He often came to see us, have a coffee and a visit, and once when he came, I could hear his car fussing — noisy — something wrong, and he came to the door and asked, "Where is Jack?" I told him Jack was in the yard. Next thing I saw Jack with his head under the hood of the car. Pretty soon he started the car and they drove it a little way, came in for coffee, and Dr. Armstrong said, "You know, Betty, Jack would make as good a preacher as I would a mechanic." I said, "Amen."

In the 1930's, I got the Secretary-Treasurer job for the Vermilion School District and Jack was the chairman and there were two more trustees. When they changed to consolidate the schools into one large district, Jack was on that Board too. He was road boss

in our district and farmers used to work out their taxes on road work. No tractors yet, so it was all horses and scrapers to move the dirt. There was one farmer who came to work and would be sitting on his scraper resting himself and his horses much of the time. Jack told him if that was all he came for, he was to go home to his yard and sit on it there. The farmer caught on and worked a little steadier. Jack soon moved up to be a Councillor in our District of Norma. He was on the road all the time. He canvassed for Victory Bonds, for the Red Cross, he was out selling shares for the Co-op Store, for the Seed Cleaning Plant, for the Co-op Implements — C.C.I.L. He was a founder member of the Wheat Pool, a member of the United Farmers of Alberta, president of our Rural Northwest Mutual Telephone Company.

Jack was a mechanic, carpenter — he built our 2 homes on the farm, and helped other neighbors build theirs. He built a nice large house on our own place in 1936. Upstairs were two large bedrooms with 2 clothes-closets in each room, and in one of those closets we stored the sacks of flour. There was a wide hallway between the two bedrooms.

We used to have a herd of beef cattle and we had to move them from one field to another. We were farming two sections at one time. Three farms rented, and our own, and all three in different places. We got so we could move them easily with our 1938 Chev car we had, that had a musical horn. We had a good cattle dog, Skippy. When he heard that horn he would come running three miles from home. We would drive in the field and blow the horn. The cattle would bunch together and then follow us out on the road; by then our dog would be behind them and bring up the rear. No trouble at all!

We had Elizabeth Ann as an afterthought, May 3rd, 1936. She married a farmer, too — Jim Durie. They took over our farm three miles north-west of Vegreville. Elizabeth doesn't take a back seat with any farm wife. She can run anything with wheels. She has run their combine a lot when needed and now she has Grant, aged 14, who has been running everything with wheels and the combine for the last two years.

I have five grandchildren: John, aged 29, is married to Jackie Fletcher, a nurse; Arnold, 27, married a schoolteacher, Linda Stuart; Gordon, 22, is a jack-of-all-trades, can do anything — a regular Mr. Fix-it — can run anything with wheels, loves the farm, and runs a bus for students and adults for tours; Christine Anne, my only granddaughter, is taking Architectural Technology and Interior Design at N.A.I.T., is in her second year, has a car and drives home for weekends, has a pet horse, loves to ride and help to move cattle from the field to the pasture; then there is

Grant — he can just do anything, name it, he does it! and he takes after me — the only thing we can't do is milk a cow!

In 1942, we started going south to miss the cold winters. The first three winters we spent one or two months down in California, then the rest of the winter in Vancouver and Victoria. In 1948, we bought our first trailer. It was built in Toronto. That winter, Jack looked at trailers and found the Spartan, a well-built trailer, aluminum construction throughout. Most of the salesmen said they were the lightest and best trailers built.

On our return in spring, 1949, we sold that trailer and when we went back South in late fall of 1949, we bought a 25-foot Spartan. Four years later we sold that one and bought a 35-foot Spartan. We parked it in Jack's cousin's yard and left it there in Riverside, California, travelling back and forth to it. We had many grand trips together, and took many short and long trips up and down the West Coast and the Middle States.

Finally the trips got to be too much for Jack and he told Dorothy and Edward if they went down and brought the trailer home, they could have it. So, in December, 1969, they went down with their truck and brought it back in January, 1970.

Jack celebrated his 80th birthday on January 8, 1974, and enjoyed every minute of it. Then suddenly he had a heart attack on January 25th, and passed away.

I am living in Vegreville and keep busy with my many hobbies. I have been very involved with promoting the Vegreville and District History Book and look forward to its completion.

A Tribute To John Lowe

by Joe Dubuc (from the Vegreville Observer, 1974)

Although this article is regretfully belated, still your scribe feels that it is intolerable to allow the passing away of such a fine, wonderful old friend and neighbor such as Jack (John) Lowe, without pausing for a moment to reflect on his life of humble and some hidden, but wonderful achievements.

Jack was born in Dwight, Ontario, on January 8, 1894, and migrated West with his family, settling in the Stony Plain district in 1909. When still a young man, he worked at railway construction, helping to build the CNR in and through the rugged and mountainous terrain around Jasper. Around that time his attentions were amorously aroused by one Elizabeth Ziegler, who lived in the Spruce Grove district, adjoining Stony Plain. She is the sister of the late George, John, Henry and Bill, still living. She is also an aunt to very numerous other Ziegler families, and their children, all of whom are the pride of the

Vegreville community, centering around the Park Grove district.

Following his railway activities, Jack Lowe took a driving course with the Hemphill School of Driving. He did so well at this, getting a passing examination mark of 100% that the same school retained his services as an instructor. By this time, he was engaged to marry Elizabeth Lowe, who would have rather liked him to continue in the employ of the driving school.

But Jack's heart had been for sometime set on farming, and he won out. In 1920, he married the Ziegler girl, and in 1921, they purchased a farm northwest of Vegreville, which he continuously operated until his retirement in 1962.

They were not blessed with a large family, but were happy to accept quality in lieu of quantity. They have two fine daughters, Dorothy (Mrs. Ed. Sanford of Lavoy) and Elizabeth (Mrs. Jim Durie of Vegreville, also District Home Economist, Alberta Department of Agriculture.) Both a credit to their parents.

Mr. Lowe served for many years on the local school board of Vermillion, later when the large Vegreville School Division became in existence, as a trustee of that body. He acted as road foreman and later as trustee for the Municipal district of Norma. He was an active founder of the Alberta Wheat Pool, helped activate the United Farmers of Alberta, participated actively in the Vegreville Co-op, as well as a director for the CCIL Implements. Other miscellaneous areas of his work were: Red Cross and Cancer drives, and Victory Bond sales. The North West Telephones benefitted, as president, when farmers took over their own telephone operations.

John was a man of untold and multiple talents, especially in the mechanical field. He had his own home-type blacksmith shop and besides his own work, he performed very many repairs for his neighbors on their cars, trucks and other machinery, never accepting any payment. If anyone was in need of help within Jack's capabilities, he was always there without noise or fanfare, but with a willing hand.

John Lowe was a rather shy, humble, retired type of a man, sometimes even hinting at introvertedness. This is probably the reason why it took a long acquaintanceship with him before one got to really know him, and his many qualities. I have often thought that this particular characteristic trait might have accounted for the fact that he was not adequately appreciated considering his many expedient accomplishments.

He was a successful farmer, provided well for his family, to the point where his widow "Betty" has reasonable security for the rest of her life.



Jack and Betty Lowe's home in Vegreville since 1963. Previous owners were Ballantine, Winnick, and Triska.

He had one brother Chester, remaining amongst us, a man here too of noble character and lovable nature.

As mentioned above, Betty Lowe, Jack's widow, is surrounded by numerous relatives, close friends, etc. but we know that she is still very lonesome for "the one and only" that was so high in her esteem, affections and love. We can try to console Mrs. Lowe only by reminding her that men of her late husband's character are needed in God's Kingdom, and that she can rest assured that he already occupies a prominent place in the golden mansions of the Lord, where she, too, will be welcomed someday.

A friend of Jack's
and his family

Lupu, Vasilie and Sanfira (Sarah) by Lily Desmond (nee Lupu)

Vasilie and Sara had four children — George, born in 1917 in Calgary, Stella, 1919 in Calgary, Lily in 1921 born in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan and Arthur born 1929 in Vegreville.

George has two children, Sherry and David, all living in Victoria, British Columbia. Stella has two children, David and Judi, all living in Coquitlam, British Columbia. Lily has four children, Bonnie living in Los Angeles, California; Kent, in Jasper, Paul and Margaret living at home in Grande Prairie, attending N.A.I.T. and University in Edmonton. Arthur has one child, Sharon. He lives in Port Coquitlam, British Columbia and Sharon in Taylor, British Columbia.

The Lupus bought the farm in the Park Grove district in 1924 from Willis Tierney — the S.W. portion of the N.W. ¼ of 36-52-15-W4. It was rented to Tierney's while the Lupus continued to live in Prince Albert. In the summer of 1925 the family spent a few weeks on the farm, then moved out permanently in 1928.

Some breaking had to be done; horses and machinery purchased; cows and pigs and a few chickens. Weather did not always co-operate and with but one quarter of land, the family had to work hard and learn how to be thrifty to make ends meet. A large garden was a necessity and I can remember we always had garden produce, good or bad weather. It was planted on summerfallow land each year. Mother started her own cabbage and cauliflower plants in a homemade hot-bed, covered with storm windows. Come a hailstorm one had to decide whether to save the window, or the plants. She started growing cucumbers and always had success and over the years, began selling cucumbers to the town women for pickles.

The depression years were hardest of all. In 1930 Dad went back to Prince Albert for the winter to work in the packing plant to earn a little money. He had an accident cutting his finger badly with a knife so had to come home. His finger healed with a permanent stiff joint.

We children went to Vegreville school as at that time; we were zoned to that school district, though Park Grove was nearer us. So we drove four and a half miles every day. In summer we drove a buggy with a buckskin horse; in the winter Dad drove us in the sleigh until we were older and my brother could manage a covered cutter. I hated going in the winter as we drove in the dark, both going and coming and were always cold. We lived the furthest and dad always maintained we could not miss school unless it was over 30° below. How he ever kept up the gruelling job of coming and going and looking after the horses, plus shovelling the snow on drifted roads, plus his chores at home is a marvel to be wondered at. Mom worried about us and worked hard trying to keep my sister and me in proper clothes.

Saturdays, Mother could take the horse and buggy and shop uptown. Actually you might call it trading, as she made butter and "sold" it to the store owner in return for tea, sugar, or yard goods for dresses. We sold eggs and cream and this money went for a few groceries too. Butter sold for ten cents a pound.

We always had plenty to eat, though perhaps not a great deal of variety. Dad knew how to pickle, cure and smoke meat from his job in the packing plants. We had chickens, milk, cream and butter and garden

produce. Fruit was scarcely ever seen. In good seasons, when berries were plentiful the Indians would drive by selling blueberries they had picked for six cents a pound. Occasionally we had oranges and every fall Dad would buy two or three boxes of apples, or crabapples which Mother canned. Some years we would can peaches, apricots and plums and these were a real treat. When mother went shopping she would bring us a treat, each of us getting a cupful of peanuts in the shell as she would buy a bag for ten cents and there would be some for the four of us.

Sundays we went to the United Church held in Park Grove School. We began going at the suggestion of Mrs. Mamie Kitto, our close neighbor. She taught Sunday School there and could also play the piano. The Kitto's had a car and sometimes would take us with them. When the church held a picnic out at the lake, Kitto's would take us children and it was an outing I dreamed about for days. Mother went to the W.A. and it was through our associations with the church that we met most of the Park Grove people, as we did not go to school there.

Dad raised the horses he needed and was handy at training them for harness so would often help neighbors with theirs. Also in butchering animals for meat, as he had experience, and being the kind hearted person he was never refused to help out where needed.

Threshing time was always an exciting time and required everyone's total effort. When my brother George was old enough he took his place on the crew with his own hay rack. The hours were long and hard. We women had much food to prepare and often we children stayed home from school to help. I could never understand how those men could eat potatoes for breakfast as well as porridge, bacon and eggs, and toast. For years we had the Jack Lowe threshing outfit thresh for us, or the John Nicholson or the Triska crew.

When the war broke out, George joined the Airforce spending two years in England, then at the end of the war when he was discharged he remained in Victoria. Stella finished school and moved to Vancouver where she married and continues to live. Lily remained in Vegreville after completing Grade 12 and worked for A.G.T. until she was married, and Arthur moved to Edmonton and finally to Vancouver.

Dad died in 1951. He had continued to farm with horses, until the previous fall, when he rented the land and had planned to continue living in the farm home. Mother lived there for a year, then sold the farm to Ernie Johnson. She lived in Vegreville until her death in 1975.

Mom and Dad were both born in Romania. They did not know each other there as they lived in dif-

ferent provinces. Dad met Mom in Calgary, where they were married. They were both in their early twenties when they came to Canada. Dad had worked in Montreal and then in packing plants in Calgary, Edmonton and finally Prince Albert. They learned English by just using it. Mom knew Ukrainian perfectly and could also write it, as well as her own Romanian language. She also could write in English, and knew some German and Polish. Dad did not insist that we children speak Romanian at home, as he maintained he had come to Canada to be a Canadian and we children would be Canadians first. He wanted us to have accent-free speech and become well educated. We went to an English-speaking church all our lives even before we came to the Park Grove district.

Lupul, Thomas

In the early 1900's, Thomas Lupul left Romania and began working in Fort Francis, Ontario for the CNR where he eventually became section foreman. There he married Alexandria and their first three sons were born. About 1914 they moved West, first to Kaleland, then to Warwick on the farm once owned by a George White (E half 33-54-14); mixed farming was done until sale of the place in 1974.

Children were: John, died 1979; Larry, married Jean Theroux, Vegreville; Mike and Pete of Edmonton; Mary, married to Pete Fedoruk, Vegreville; Annie of Lloydminster; Helen, married to Bill Fedoruk, Vegreville; Sam, Red Deer; George, Edmonton; Lily, died 1978.

In addition to farming, Larry Lupul worked on road maintenance for nineteen years in Counties of Two Hills and Minburn. He started with horses and fresno and graduated to cats and graders. Larry has a fund of tales of the wild and woolly West but he things they are just too wild in print.

Larry attended school at Fairwood until he was fifteen, then he had to leave to help run the farm, as their father had gone north to homestead. He says: "I still am amazed how Mother and I managed to raise the rest of the family and pay the debts. I will never forget the hungry 30's and the dirty forties." Today he is retired and living with wife Jean in town.

Macyk, Prokip and Anna **by Alfred Macyk**

Anna Ruryk came to Canada in 1913, accompanied by her parents, Nick and Helen Ruryk, and two sisters, Kalyna and Dorothy. Being citizens of the Austrian-Hungarian Empire, they encountered considerable difficulty while in England, as antagonism and hostility was growing in Europe prior to

World War I. Fortunately, they were able to get to Canada in time. Anna came to Vegreville and stayed at one of the church homes with her sisters.

Prokip Macyk came to Canada earlier, but did not come to Alberta until 1907. He came to work for the C.P.R. in Lethbridge. Having heard that some Ukrainians from his homeland village of Woichikwtsi, Sniatyn, had settled around Vegreville, he decided to join them.

He met Anna Ruryk, daughter of Helen (Triska) and Nick Ruryk. They got married in 1915 and settled on a farm north-east of Vegreville.

Their first son, Bill, was born in 1917. Their second son, Andrew, was born in 1919. They gave up farming then, and Prokip Macyk worked on the railroad at Rosevear, Dapp, and finally at Lac La Biche. Their third son, Nick, was born at Dapp. They purchased a farm with a small house at Radway. The farm had very little land cleared, as usual, when they moved onto it where their fourth son, Alfred, was born in 1924. They moved back to Lac La Biche and Prokip worked on the railway till they moved back to the farm in 1927. They cleared and broke a lot of land in 1928 and had a very big wheat crop in 1929, but after the economic crash of 1929 they received little for wheat.

Their fifth and last son, Peter, was born in 1929 and with a family of five boys and a semi-developed homestead they settled in to face the depression years. Anna did not enjoy good health throughout the 1930's. She worked hard and always devoted herself to her family and church. She never forgot the good treatment she received at the church home in Vegreville. Anna's health deteriorated rapidly until she died on October 15, 1949, at the early age of 49. Prokip passed away January 19, 1964 at the age of 79 years.

Bill married Julia Onyschuk of Radway in 1941, settled on a farm in the Waskatenau district and they have three sons. Orest married Jean Skuba and they have one daughter, Lynne. Orest is employed as an Administration Officer by the Farm Credit Corporation. Taras (Terry) married Christine Gural of Edmonton (daughter of Father Gural, Edmonton Ukrainian Greek Catholic diocese); they have one son, Michael. Terry is a graduate of the University of Alberta in Agriculture, majoring in soils and has a Master's Degree from the University of Alberta. He is employed by the Research Council of Alberta. Kenny married Vivian Wenger of Radway and they have one son, Kelly. Kenny is completing his apprenticeship as a heavy duty mechanic.

Andrew is single. He worked away from home in his early years after finishing school, then spent several seasons working for the Nick and Mary Cher-

niawsky family at Mundare. From there he settled on a farm with his father and brother Nick in the Radway district and is still there, thinking of retiring soon.

Nick is single. After finishing school he served in the army from 1943 to 1945. In 1947 he settled on the home farm and is still there. Nick worked with the Prairie Farm Assistance for many years as an adjuster and reporter throughout Northern Alberta.

Alfred is married to Sophie Janzewski of Evansburg. He served in the Royal Canadian Airforce from 1942 to 1945, with overseas service from 1943 to 1945. He settled on a farm in the Waskatenau district in 1947. There he served as a councillor and reeve in the municipal district of Smoky Lake from 1953 to 1960. He was a member of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta from 1955 to 1959. He left the farm in 1960 and took employment with the Veterans Land Administration and later transferred to Farm Credit Corporation where he is still employed as a District Supervisor. He lives in Edmonton. They have four sons: Don married Marilyn Gray. They have two children, Jennifer and Tim. Don graduated from the University of Alberta in Agriculture, majoring in Economics and is now employed by the Province of Alberta in Foreign Marketing.

Gary is single, lives at Waskatenau and works for Waskatenau Motors as a partsman. Douglas is single, lives in Edmonton and works for Alberta Concrete Products as a scaler and truck foreman. Peter is single, lives in Edmonton, and works for Northland Lincoln Mercury as an apprentice mechanic.

Peter married Louise Woznack of Thorhild. After finishing school he lived on a farm alongside his father and brothers Nick and Andrew. He went to work for the County of Thorhild as a Field Supervisor. Following several years at that job he took assessment courses and became an assessor of the Municipal District of Morinville. They live in Thorhild and have a family of three daughters.

Marie graduated from the University of Alberta with a degree in Education and married Warren Shaw. They live in Edmonton. Peggy is in her fourth year at the University of Alberta in the Faculty of Education. She is married to Sydney Shwetz of Thorhild.

Paulette is attending school and lives with her parents in Thorhild. Peter, Louise and the girls have been very active members and workers in 4-H Clubs in Thorhild.

Malarski Family **by Irene (Slorach) Malarski**

Jacob John Malarski was born in 1848 and died in 1924. He emigrated to Canada from Austria in April 1900 with his son William. Later he brought over his

wife Aklina (who was born in 1845 and died in 1921) and two daughters, Kate Fedoruk and Ann Shewchuk, and one son Mike. They settled on a homestead northwest of Warwick.

William Jacob Malarski was born in a village in Woloskowce, Galicia, Austria, on August 3, 1885. On May 16, 1905, he married Nancy Miskiw who was born in Galicia, Austria, in 1878, and died in 1961 at Warwick. They homesteaded in Warwick and raised a family of six girls and four boys:

Annie Slusarenko of Edmonton

Joseph of Vegreville



William and Nancy Malarski, 1955.



Four generations of Malarskis: William Malarski, his son Joseph (r.), his grandson Ernest (l.) and his great-grandson Darren, 1970.

Jessie Kieffuik of Warwick (deceased)

Kate Katan of Edmonton

Mary Kieffuik of Edmonton

John of Warwick (deceased)

George of Mundare

Sophie Piluk of Victoria, B.C.

Walter of Vegreville

Rose Taylor of Edmonton.

For the past two years William has been residing at Mundare Senior Citizens' Home. He is doing very well at the age of 94 years.

Residing in Vegreville at present are the following: Joseph Malarski was born December 27, 1907, at Warwick. He settled on a farm near the homestead, after marrying Mary Stefaniuk, who was born August 27, 1917. They had a family of one son, Ernest Walter, and one daughter, Louise Adeline, now married to Robert Brodie of Fort Nelson, B.C. In 1946 Joe moved to town where he has been active in the auto body trade. At present Joe is enjoying retirement.

Ernest Walter Malarski who owns "Ernie's Auto Body Shop" married Irene Adeline Slorach. They have a family of two daughters and two sons who are: Gail Karon, Kim Beverly, Darren Kent and Garth Jordan. The family lives in Vegreville.

Walter Malarski was born April 13, 1922, at Warwick. On June 28, 1947, he married Sally Cherneski who was born on June 26, 1929. Walter completed high school at Warwick and during the war remained on the farm to help his parents. Later in 1951 he joined the staff of Canadian Utilities Ltd. (now called Alberta Power Ltd.). He has remained working with the same company till the present time. Walter and Sally have a family of two girls: Elaine, married to Emery Cherot, now residing in Calgary; Linda, married to Brian Chomyc, now residing in Edmonton.

Mandrik, Larry and Domka

as told by daughter Mary, to M. L. English, Dec. 31, 1978

In 1901, Larry Mandrik and wife Domka came from Berehmeet, Bukovina. Their three children accompanied them: Irena thirteen, Ivan six years and Mary not a year old. Two more children were born in Canada, Alex and Nick.

They arrived in Edmonton, went to a farm, and looked for a homestead. The three families kept together, Mandriks, Ursuliaks and Mazaars. They settled by present Hairy Hill, at Shepenitz. Vegreville was the main shopping centre, before that, Edmonton. A trip to Edmonton took a week in all, with a tremendous list of purchases to be made for neighbors. Mr. Mandrik remembered the whole list, memorized it and never forgot a thing.

There was no church, no school, just bush. Mrs. Mandrik spaded up a little garden the first year, while her husband went out to work. This was after a sod house was built, which had a thatched roof, a great improvement over a sod roof, which leaked after it rained.

The ceiling was made of woven willow, plastered with clay. The floor was made the same way, willow wands carefully laid and plastered over with mud, drying fairly even; could be swept. The surface would be renewed from time to time. Even the door was woven willow and fences the same. Larry Mandrik was so resourceful and industrious he made all these; not to mention a clay oven both inside and outside the house, topped with a sheet of metal, on which to cook. The outdoor “peeche” was used to bake bread, also pots of food; this has not varied much to this day. A grist mill was operated at home, the stones having been brought from Bukovina. A cow supplied milk; cheese and butter were made; thus they lived very well.

As time went on, pigs were raised, also horses and cows. Chickens and ducks were added, gardens were enlarged. Brushing and breaking was done by Mr. Mandrik; plots of wheat and oats were like gardens. Later they plowed with four horses, or oxen. Social life was not neglected, however; visitors came on Sundays, and sat on a long bench. There was plenty for all to eat, no liquor to spoil the enjoyment; all were happy — lots of land — wonderful Canada!

Irena married a Mazaar. The three families still kept together, and children married. The wedding was held in the two-roomed home; a long table was made for about forty guests, ambitious for those early days. Even the horses were decorated with red bandanas and spruce boughs.

Soon the railway came to Vegreville. All visited that could and exclaimed over the new sights — even a victrola — how could voices come from that, and music! The telephone, too, was an exciting new experience.

The men drove to Vegreville, hauled grain with four horses. Cattle and pigs were sold in Vegreville. Mr. Taschuk freighted supplies steadily from Vegreville to Brosseau and Duvernay in those very early days.

Mandryk, Tofil and Rozi

by Elsy Tessier

My father, Tofil Mandryk, was born May 10, 1883, in Berhometh, Bukowvina, Austria and like all other able-bodied young men had to serve a compulsory three years in the army there, from the age of eighteen to twenty-one. He was an interpreter in the cavalry for he spoke many languages fluently. He

told me that near the end of the three years he was given the meanest horse in the cavalry and that the horse had already killed three men. He decided he would not be the fourth and so one day when he saw there was nobody around he rammed the horse and killed it. In those days a horse was far more valuable than any human being and Dad was sure that if he was ever found out, he would be shot, so as soon as he was out of the army, he decided he would come to Canada.

In those days agents were plying the people of Europe to settle in Canada with promises of large homesteads and roads paved with gold. In the spring of 1910, when Dad came to Canada, one of his jobs was digging on the Welland Canal. He said that he was at the bottom of the canal digging when a cement block fell and landed a few feet away from him, embedding itself in the ground so hard it was almost buried. Dad threw down his spade and walked off the job then and there. He said that when he quit shaking a week later he suddenly realized he had not even remembered to pick up the pay he had earned up to quitting time.

As he wended his way West, he once worked in Lethbridge on the railroad and there he tasted his first piece of apple pie.

My mother, Rozi Mandryk, nee Meroniuk, was born November 13, 1894, in Shipenitz, Bukowvina, Austria and shortly after her birth her mother passed away. Her father was well-to-do and she should have had a pleasant life, for she told me her father was a loving, kindly father, but he married again and my mother's stepmother was different. When mother was only seventeen, she asked her father if she could come to the land of golden opportunities, Canada. She already had an aunt living in the Duvernay, Alberta, area and if nothing else she could join her aunt, so grandfather said a loving sad farewell and sent her off to Canada. She left her home the beginning of April, 1912, and arrived at the Port of Quebec, May 10, 1912. Dad was already engaged to marry another woman when he first met Mom and he was so taken with Mom that with a whirlwind courtship, they were married August 2, 1912, only six weeks after they first met.

Mom and Dad homesteaded in the Duvernay area where they had five children. Dad usually worked at Kamsack, Sask. on the railroad during this time, and some of the tales of hardship Mom told us were truly sad. Our greatest sadness there was when the second youngest girl, Mary, at the age of two and a half years, ran past a smudge that Mom had lit to keep the mosquitoes away while milking cows, her dress catching on fire, and she was badly burned. Mom said she was a lovely girl with long curly hair and big

brown eyes. She was taken to the Rowland M. Boswell Hospital, which was quite a lengthy trip in those days by horse and buggy, only to pass away one week later. In later years, one Sunday, all the family available made a trip to Mary's grave and to the church where Mom and Dad were married. We toured the old homestead which was still empty, for Mom and Dad gave up the homestead after a few years. The horses were left behind having pasture and water, but when Dad went back to get the horses, they had long since turned wild and I can remember every now and then someone telling Dad they caught one of his horses.

When Dad and Mom first moved to Vegreville in March of 1923, I believe Dad ran a stable where the farmers could leave their horses while they shopped and could also spend the night if necessary. Mom used to tell us some pretty wild tales of those times but Dad always used to pooh-pooh them.

Later Dad was to run the Vegreville Flour Mill for Mr. Reesor. Those were the golden days. Dad built a new house in 1927 and we got all new furniture and small as I was, I can still remember the excitement as each new piece of furniture was unpacked and placed in the house. Our life was good and our spirits were happy.

One Saturday evening, Mr. Guichon, our neighbour across the back lane, came running into the house yelling that our barn was on fire. Mom and Dad had just left for their weekly grocery shopping and the fire brigade picked Dad up on the way over. Neighbors came from nowhere and shortly had the chickens out of the chicken coop which adjoined the barn and someone had the cow out of the barn and tied to the back fence; but the cow broke the rope and was soon back in the barn only to burn. The next day I can remember thinking the whole town smelled like one large roast beef.

The depression hit and it hit my father's job as well. Those were poor times for all but by this time our family had grown to seven children and that was a large family to feed. We were poor, but we were close and we were happy. Our gardens were large and our canning just as large. Mom sewed and knit our clothes and I can remember longing for a store-bought dress. Little did I realize that now I would dearly love to have tailored clothes as I did then. During the depression my father worked for the town of Vegreville from early in the morning till sometimes late at night. If a town water line froze, he often worked in the bitter cold through the night. Only then they called it relief and gave him \$15.00 a month to sustain on. I often think it was a pity my father never collected back wages. He would have died a rich man.

Later my father was to work in a lumber yard, as a spare on the railroad, and gardening for other people as my father was an excellent gardener. Happily we owned our home and all worked hard to keep it. As years went on, the cow we had for milk for our own use grew into a small herd and we started a dairy business and sold milk — seventeen quarts of Jersey milk for a dollar, which pulled us through the hard times.

Now the children. The first born was a boy, Alec, born July 29, 1913, commonly known as A. T. (Alec Tofil). He was the whiz of the family and did twelve grades within nine years, all with honors too. He started working as a grocery boy, worked on to be manager of a grocery department and then on to manage the biggest grocery store in dear old Vegreville. He could play the mandolin and banjo but he also wanted to learn how to play the trumpet as a lad. Have you ever heard anybody practice trumpet? Mom used to send him to the shed to practice. He learned to play the trumpet and I can remember my pride once when I walked out of the Vegreville theatre after a Remembrance Day service when A. T. had played taps. That trumpet paid off, for A. T. joined a band and many dances in the vicinity were held to this band. Once after playing all night till the early hours, this band asked for twenty-five dollars and the man who had the hall said, "Heck, I could have got the band from Vegreville for twenty bucks." Little did he know whom he was speaking to. A. T. married Anne Yukim July 19, 1935, who helped him all the way and first started sewing for other people and this was to continue until she owned her own dress shop. I remember the suits, coats and dresses she sewed for me to match the finest there ever were. They had only one son, Larry, who was up for the Bronze Medal and, sad to say, was killed in a car accident at the young age of fourteen before he was ever to receive this medal.

The next to come was also a boy named Monte, born October 30, 1914. Dear, lovable, Monte, the brave one in the family who at the tender age of seventeen could not see Mom and Dad working so hard to feed and clothe all of us, so he made himself a knapsack and decided to ride the rails and find a job to help with the family. Monte told us many tales of this time but the one that stuck in my mind was the one about the time he was in central British Columbia on a cold wintery day when he saw a small cabin and, hoping to go in out of the cold, went in. There was no smoke coming out of the cabin so he expected it to be empty, but instead, he found a sick little elderly woman lying in bed covered with everything she had in the house and still shivering. Monte was able to chop her some wood, warm the cabin and even

walked several miles to bring her food. He also left a hefty pile of wood chopped up for her to use when he left to be on his way. At Prince Rupert he had nothing so, with nothing to lose, he went to see the mayor of the town and asked the mayor to stake him with \$150.00 so he could dress himself and look for a decent job. I think the mayor was so flabbergasted with his audacity that he did indeed stake Monte and Monte was lucky enough to get a good job in a gold mine and repay the mayor and over the years they became good friends. While working at the gold mine Monte came home to Vegreville, helped Mom and Dad pay their house taxes, bought each and every one of us a new outfit and had us take a family picture. I think it is the only family picture the Mandryks ever took. Monte married Anne Zilkie February 26, 1938, and they had two children, Wayne and Shirley who still live in British Columbia and have families of their own. Monte bought a tract of woods on the Fraser River where he built a log home which he had dreamed about since he was small. Later he sold this land and moved to Vancouver Island with his family. While on the Island, three days after his 49th birthday, he was out fishing with his neighbour, a younger man in the armed forces, when a squall came up and both my brother and his neighbour drowned in the Pacific Ocean. Monte's body was found about six weeks later, but his neighbor's body was never found. He too left behind a wife and two small children.

Next in line came the first girl, known to all as Sophia, born January 6, 1917. Her real name is Pheonia but her grade one teacher could not remember that name and called her Sophia and it stuck the rest of her days. Now Sophia was born on Ukrainian Christmas Eve and Mother always did say she was the best Christmas present she ever did receive. A.T. who was about four or five at the time, quickly brought out some dried broad beans and when Dad asked him what he was going to do with them, he said, "Feed the baby!" Since that time to this, the Mandryk clan have had broad beans on Christmas Eve to celebrate Mom's biggest Christmas present ever.

Sophia married Elias Hunka who worked for the lumber yard at Vegreville and Two Hills and then on to Rimbey where they currently reside. They have three children, two boys and a daughter of which they are truly proud.

After Sophia came Mary, the little girl who died when she was burned on the homestead.

The next in line was Anne, the little one, who never grew very tall and stayed as small as a mite until later on in life. Anne once worked for the Flying Training School at Bowden, Alberta, during the war

where she was assistant mess officer. My most vivid memory of Anne was one day as a child when she followed a group of children all much larger than herself on a "follow the leader" game. They ran down to the tracks, climbed the box cars, leaped from car to car and then down again and were on their way. Unfortunately Anne was not as good a rabbit as the others, for when she leaped from one car to the next, she missed and fell to the tracks on her head splitting it open. When the children brought her home to mother, even the hem of her dress was dripping with blood. Mom fainted and Dad ran for the doctor. We had neither telephone nor car. Anne survived to marry Earle Kinne and have three lovely daughters. Anne worked at the Vegreville "5 to Dollar" for many years. Our poor dear Anne, not only did she split her head open when she was a child having to wear a turban bandage a whole summer but in later years she was to have an operation after an aneurism and once again her head was opened up to sear a bleeding vessel. She was to wear a turban bandage another time as well. Anne and Earle continue to live in Vegreville where their daughters and their families visit them often.

Brother Vic, full name Victor Cornelius, was next in line. The warrior in our family. He worked as a grease monkey in Barkley's Garage when he left school and again at Wade's Furniture. On pay day he never came home without a small gift for my mother. He also gave the younger girls an allowance which five times out of ten he borrowed back before the next pay day but he was a generous person. I can say I never heard him say a bad word about anyone. He joined the army October or November of 1939, during the second world war, just before he turned seventeen and I feel he grew up in the army and lived army till the day he died. He was stationed at the Princess Pat's Barracks in Calgary and came home on what was to be his final leave before going overseas and he was only seventeen then. Mom immediately wrote saying she did not mind his being in the army but objected to his going overseas before he was eighteen so, as a result, for one year he trained recruits at Calgary before going overseas with them. He was with the mechanical corp and a better mechanic couldn't be found when he wanted to work but army he was and that wasn't as regular as most. After coming out of the army, he tried to work with his brother-in-law but things didn't work out so he moved to Vancouver where he found his true vocation which happened to be plaster work. He lived a gay carefree life in Vancouver until he became ill and landed in the Vets Hospital there and passed away in the spring of 1979. Vic never married.

The seventh child was Elsy, the mathematician in

the family. She first claimed fame when Mr. McCrea who was then the school principal in the Vegreville Public School gave the grade eight class the same problem and had promised the student who could solve the problem a dollar and he said he had never had to give anybody the dollar. Elsy got it and often said after that it was a pity times were hard then and she couldn't have saved it and framed it. When she left school she worked as a stenographer at the Vegreville Court House and then went to Dawson Creek, B.C. to join her husband Dick Sherstianko, who had an auto body shop there. At Dawson Creek, her only child, a daughter Tracy, was born. While in Dawson Creek, Elsy worked for Wilson Freightways and at one time had the power-of-attorney to sign all civilian trucks up the Alaska Highway. Elsy and her husband moved several times and finally landed in Edmonton where they spent the greatest part of their married life. Sadly Dick was killed in a car accident only fourteen years after they were married. In a couple years Elsy married Fred Tessier and a year later moved to the car capital of Canada, Windsor, Ontario. In Windsor Fred worked at his old love, foundry moulding and Elsy worked as a bookkeeper at the Norton Palmer Hotel working her way up to comptroller. When the hotel was sold and torn down, Elsy then went to work as Office Supervisor at the Villa Maria Home for the Aged growing old with the residents of the Villa. She has two grandchildren, a boy and girl of which she is truly proud.

Then came Lena, commonly known as Lee, the youngest of the girls. She was a brave one and married a farmer and lived on a farm helping her first husband Michael Shchurek save the old homestead which had been deep in debt when they married. I once went out there to help her during threshing and I was never so tired in all my life. Up at four to start breakfast; as soon as breakfast dishes were done, mid-morning lunch had to be prepared and as soon as that was done, dinner had to be prepared, and right after that, mid-afternoon lunch, and then supper and then the snack before bedtime. We went to bed at two A.M. and were up at four again. Do you wonder I call her brave? Lee and Michael had two children, a son and a daughter. After a while things did not go well and so Lee and Michael went their separate ways. Later Lee married a kindly William Kitlarchuk and they continue to reside in happiness in sunny Vegreville. When Lee first started at school, Miss Black, the district health nurse, was to examine her at school as she did all the children. Lee dashed out of school running home to report, "And Mom, she put something in my mouth. Not a candy or anything good but a dirty little stick." She worked for a dentist

in Vegreville and I am sure the children there never ran away from her.

The last of the children was our dear Pat, real name, Nestor Terrance, our restless one. When Mom brought him home from the hospital and I asked his name, I can remember saying, "Nestor! what a nasty name, I hope he is never called that" and he wasn't. As a youth Pat lived through the zoot suit age. He worked at many jobs from surveying the North for the electricity company to steward on a steamship line. He always went into each new idea headstrong and soon let it wane. At the young age of fourteen he met a girl in Calgary, Ruth Oneski and courted her till he married her at the age of eighteen. They lost their first child, a girl Tiara Kim, at the age of eight weeks to crib death and had a son Paddy Dean before rough roads hit their marriage and they went their separate ways. Later Pat was to marry Phyllis Tye and have three children and again Pat wandered from job to job until he went with the Olivetti Underwood company where he learned the vocation he loved best of all, that of repairing business machines. Pat was to pass away on September 6, 1975, with lung cancer at the age of thirty-nine. It was only after he was gone that we were to learn that during his training he had obtained the highest marks, 99% for his training with Olivetti and sadly Pat never knew of this himself.

Of my parents, Dad was the first to go on May 9th, 1968, the day before his 85th birthday. His hearty laugh and keen sense of humor will always live with me. Since my father was eleven and a half years older than my mother it was a standing joke in our family that Mom had twelve years to go after Dad passed on but that was not to be the way. Some eight years later, when Mom was coming home from a church bingo with her friend, on September 29th, 1976, she had her only heart attack and went very quickly. As I stood in the lovely new church, for which Mom and Dad had worked and for which A.T. and his wife Anne had worked, beside my mother's casket looking at the lovely chandeliers donated to the church by A.T. and Anne in memory of their son Larry and our parents, Rozi and Tofil Mandryk, I could not but think, "How truly appropriate. Was not Larry the **Light of their life** and were not my mother and father the **Light of our lives!**"

Mansell, Pat and Erica **by Erica Mansell**

I am Mrs. Pat Mansell, formerly Erica Weder, and we live 10½ miles south of Innisfree. Pat was born just across the road from here on his father's homestead. I was born 3 miles north of Mannville, Alberta and the same year my folks moved just 2 miles north of here. Both Pat and myself had all our

schooling at our country school, "Woodville". Pat bought the Amor Long farm (Sec. 21-49-11-W4) when we got married. This is where we are still living.

My husband's father, Thomas Patterson Mansell, came from England in 1906. His mother, Margaret Isherwood Mansell and son Thomas Bert (age 4), came later. His dad filed on the S.W. ¼ 28-49-11-W4 and was lucky to get it. Others hadn't taken it because it was a small quarter due to part of it being in Lake Alice. The first year his dad worked on the Grand Trunk railroad bed somewhere near where the Battle River bridge is, and his mother cooked for the gang all summer in a big tent. They would work so far each way, then set up a new camp.

That fall they moved into the one-room shack on the homestead with all their belongings, wagon pulled by a team of black mules and leading a white one, which later died in the winter. The shack had no ceiling and the studs and rafters were all exposed. A far cry from today's textured ceilings and carpeted floors.

Innisfree was called Delnorte in those days. The settlement was given the name by Elmer Jones (George Washington Puckette's son-in-law). George Puckette homesteaded the land where the village is. Elmer had been in many wars in the South-West and was intrigued by the names with Spanish flavor. The name Del Norte is a Spanish expression which means "The North" so he thought it appropriate. About 1909 it was changed to Innisfree. McKenzie Mann Construction Co. was building the railroad and he brought Mr. Walker, President of the Bank of Commerce, and a British newsman, Mr. Hawkes. They were scouting out places for banks, so George Puckette walked them around to the top of Anita hill where they saw Birch Lake with a string of small lakes reaching north. Mr. Walker seemed much impressed, and said if they'd change the Post Office Delnorte to the name of Innisfree, which reminded him of Innisfree in Scotland, he would put in a \$10,000 bank and send him two big bunting flags. This he did and the Bank of Commerce was built in 1906 and opened in December, so by 1909 the Post Office Delnorte was changed to Innisfree. Although some mail still came in 1907 to the name Innisfree and some stamped Delnorte in 1908. The trail to Innisfree wound all over here and there with sod and log shacks, also abandoned dugouts on all the homestead lands. Some folks stayed long enough to get their titles, then got a mortgage and took off. A few drifted back, and after World War I there was a big influx of people from the U.S.A., but a lot of them didn't last long either. It seemed that folks with families stuck out the hard times. It was difficult in those

days as a lot of fathers, including Pat's, went working in logging camps or coal mines during the winters. His mother and older child Bert fed the animals, bucksawed wood and carried water up a big hill from a spring by the lake. They also melted snow for washing, which was done on a scrub board.

Their early barns and granaries were built of logs chinked with mud as was also a lean-to built onto the original homestead shack. A very severe summer storm washed out all the mud and almost took the roof off this lean-to, so it was torn down and replaced with a lumber addition.

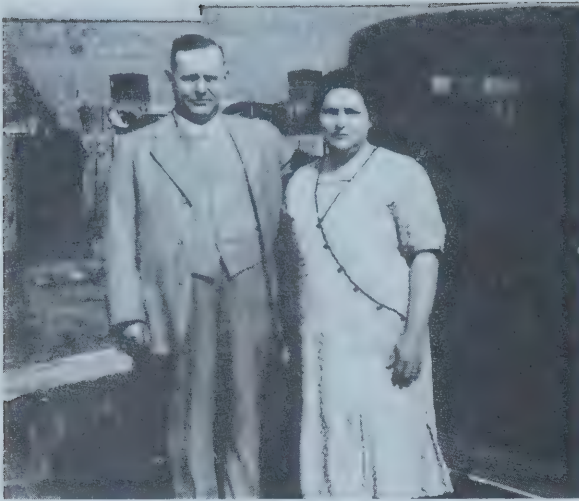
In the early days, although they had a Doctor in Innisfree, the first being Dr. Steel about 1907, there was no place for the women to stay when they were having their babies. Thus the women from this area went by buggy, wagon or sleigh to old Vegreville, Mrs. Cole being the closest mid-wife. Pat's mother was not well when his sister Frances was born in 1911. She had to spend a month there and also keep the young 2-year-old, George, as there was no one to look after him at home. It was a long trip to get there with a team and sleigh. The old prairie trail that came from the west goes across our pasture land. This is still the original prairie grass and the imprint is still there. It angled northeast, then to my Dad's land (Robert G. Weder) and went east directly in front of dad's home. My brother Robert Weder who is married to Genevieve Ziegler, Vegreville, has his home on the old trail.

My Mother's (Zella Perry Weder) parents, Oscar and Viola Perry, homesteaded just 6 miles south of Innisfree on Sec. 10-50-11-W4. Mother's brother Leon, my dad, Robert, and his brother Charlie, worked on the railroad between Vegreville to Innisfree. Having heard of homesteads south of Birch Lake, Leon and his Dad returned to file on the homestead. The family moved on it the following year, 1909. My mother and dad were married Aug. 17, 1909, but didn't move to this area until 1918. My parents had 7 boys and 2 girls: Carl, Ed (Viking, Alta.), Bernard, Ruth (Edmonton, Alta.), Erica, Ray and Robert (Innisfree), John at Camrose, Alta., Claude (deceased 1930).

Marchand, Genery by Albina (Marchand) Weutherick

On May 22, 1905, Genery Marchand married Albina Durand in the Chapel of the Sacred Heart which is in Notre Dame church in Montreal.

Simone was born in Montreal in 1906 and Hector in 1908. The family moved to a small farm south of Old Vegreville in 1909, where Jeanne was born in 1910. A Vegreville "Old Timer", Mde. Napoleon Lemay was midwife.



Genery Marchand and his wife Albina, 1930. (Barkley's Garage in background).

Approximately 1911 the family moved to St. Paul des Metis where Mr. Marchand "proved" on a homestead. For some years he freighted with a team of oxen between St. Paul and Vegreville. In 1912 Germaine was born in a log cabin on the homestead, as was Albina in 1914.

In 1915 the family moved once more, this time to Denisville, present day St. Vincent, where a daughter Ida was born and died at six weeks. It was here also that Hercule (Bud) was born in 1918. Mr. Marchand opened a blacksmith shop in the village.

It was in 1919 that the family moved back to Vegreville, in the new town this time, where Mr. Marchand opened the blacksmith shop (located on Highway 16, today part of Tom Boy parking lot) which he operated until 1932 when he sold it to Mr. Delphis Bienvenue. During the years there, Jean Paul was born in 1920 and Therese in 1923 and three boys who were stillborn.

Following the sale of the business, the family moved to a farm in Mallaig, Alberta, where Jeanne was living with her husband, Rene Tercier. Jeanne and Rene had been married in the chapel of the convent of Les Filles de la Providence in Vegreville by Father Dominic Rowland.

Mr. Marchand farmed in Mallaig until Mrs. Marchand died in 1941. The farm was sold in 1942 after which Mr. Marchand moved to Vancouver where he eventually married Francoise Bellisle. He died in Vancouver in 1964 and is buried in St. Vincent beside his first wife.

Jeanne taught school in Old Vegreville the year 1931 to 1932. Germaine taught school in Dubuc school for one year.

In 1956 Albina moved to Vegreville with her husband Edward Wuetherick and a family of six



On Marianich farm. Threshing machine had no blower and feeder had to be hand fed. About 1915.

children: Joanne, Norman, Marion, Karen, Robert and Michael. They all went to school in St. Martin's school with the exception of Joanne. Ed was C.N. agent in Vegreville until 1965 when he retired and moved to Edmonton.

Martyniuk, Mike

Mike's people came from Kolomea in Bukowina province in 1894; they settled north of Mundare where Mike was born in 1906. In 1929 the family moved to Vegreville area, buying a half-section four miles south-east of town, the land formerly owned by an Englishman named Lynn, now owned by Mrs. Chapelski. There was lots of breaking to be done; at first they used eight horses, then later a tractor. Mike began his carpentry work then by building a log granary, 32' x 30', still standing today. For pastimes there were weddings, picnics, and pasture ball-games. At one of these in Brinton's pasture, Mike hit a real long one and he started racing around the bases, urged on by the cheering crowd. But in the meantime, the preceding batter, Harold Kennedy, was stalled on 2nd having a chin-wag with the opposition, and Mike flew right on by, beating Harold home by five minutes, at least. No one can remember the ump's decision on that! In hard times in the thirties, to earn extra money, Mike built more log barns and helped to plaster the interior of Wasyleski's house; that made him a "finishing" carpenter. In 1941 at Mundare, Mike met Bessie Worulak from Smoky Lake and they returned to the farm at Vegreville after marriage. In July, 1946, they moved to town to the little bungalow formerly owned by Pauk (corner of 54a Ave. and 49 St.), where they live today.

Mike continued carpentry, working with Roy Ludwick, Imperial Lumber, and Harry Eliuk; he also hauled gas for Arychuk for five years. In 1964, he suffered a stroke which left him partially disabled,



Mr. and Mrs. Mike Martyniuk, 1976.

but with his ambition, he does more work with one hand than many do with two. Keeping the sidewalks clean summer and winter, working in their fine garden, and sharpening saws are only a few of his jobs. Bessie keeps an immaculate house and yard, does church work, and bakes fancy Korowi, amongst other things. Mike and Bessie raised a family of six:

Bill, who owns an Advertising/PR company in Toronto; Ed, with Massey-Ferguson in Toronto; Elsie, who lives in town with her husband, Gene Sakaluk of Gene's Electric, and their three children — Jeanine, Chad, and Tyson; Marvin (Smirk), lives in Vegreville, is foreman of body shop at Raydon's, and is married to Joy Fuller; they have one daughter, Renee. Danny is in Edmonton with NADP and still plays the drums; Cliff is also in the city, working as a salesman.

Mast, Art and Clara by Art and Clara Mast

I went to school at Ideal School till I was thirteen years old. During the summer I worked for Tommy Warden at his dairy farm. Then to school in Vegreville, where the principal was Mr. Hayhurst; other teachers were Miss Wright, Miss Hayhurst and Miss Garrison. I stayed at the boys' home '26, '27 and 1928, then I went to Calgary for two years to the Institute of Technology and Art. Later I took a course in bookkeeping from Mr. Ellerton in 1932; we then rented a feed mill and ran it with my brother-in-law's Allis-Chalmers tractor. Starting up was slow and we had to put in the power before the fall of '33 so I took off for Anyox, B.C. Part of '32 and '33 I courted Miss Clara Schettle who lived with her folks on Prairie Lodge farm owned by Mr. Richardson.

In April '33 I went to Anyox with Max Dietrich who was an electrician at Vegreville. On December 7, my young lady from Vegreville arrived at Anyox and we were married. I had sent the money to install the power in the mill, to my brother Jake who was running the mill and things were going fairly well. We left Anyox in May of '35 and came back to Vegreville and bought the mill. We had a son six months old. We bought a second-hand car from Thomas Garage and enjoyed our home. I put a battery charger into the Mill and was recharging batteries and winding armatures for car generators. Nearly all farm radios were battery-operated so we enjoyed a good battery business.

One day a stranger came to the mill and told me if I gave him \$25.00 my opposition would be out of business. I told him he must be out of his mind, there was enough to keep us, and my opposition had a family to look after. I never saw him again but two weeks later my mill went up in smoke. We built a new one that we ran on natural gas — we put in an old 30-60 Rumely we bought from Imperial Oil. One cold morning we could not get it started so we put a fire under the engine. It got away on us and burned the belts and elevator leg. It took a month to get permission to repair and operate it. Walter Hansen helped to fix it and we got it going again, but it was hard to get our business back again as the battery



Art and Clara Mast and their 2 sons — Rolland (l.) and Cecil (r.), 1940. Now live at White Rock, B.C.



Mast chop mill, 1935.



New Mast chop mill, built after the other burned down, about 1936.

shop also burned in the first fire and we lost about 200 customers' batteries. I found it hard to hang on. We got young Ford from Lavoy to run it and I left for B.C. to the mines again. The two fires were probably the best thing to happen as I used to cough till I bled from the dust in the grain.

Our oldest son is Roland, the young one, Cecil. Cecil lives in Edmonton and is a barber at the Beverly Crest (Cecil's Barber Shop). Roland is an electrical inspector at Campbell River on Vancouver Island.

Clara and I are retired at White Rock, B.C.

Mast, Jacob Sr.

Jacob Mast Sr. was born in Wambach, Germany in 1887. In 1905 at the age of 18 he came to Canada with his parents and they settled in the Kimberly, B.C. area. His parents later moved to Coronation, Alta., and he went to the Gold Rush in Alaska in 1907. He later went to Seattle, Washington, where he met and married Maria Kielwasser in 1909. They took up residence in Grand Forks, B.C., where Jacob worked in the Grandley smelter, smelting ore from Phoenix a few miles away. They had four children born to them there: Emma in 1910, Art in 1911, Jacob Jr. in 1913 and Irma in 1914. His wife died in 1915 so Jacob took their four children to Stanmore, Alberta, where his parents farmed. Jacob (Jake) was later introduced to John Batch's sister, Helene Albrecht,

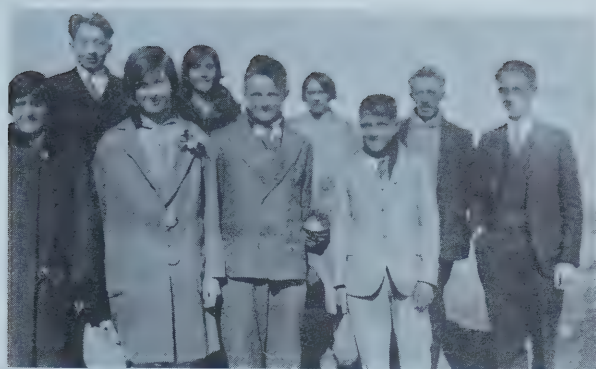
whose husband had died of the Spanish flu. She had four children: Edward, Bill, Alex and Frieda (Albrecht). Jake and Helene got married in 1921 and Jake moved his family to the farm twelve miles south of Vegreville. They moved to Vegreville with a wagon, four horses, half a load of oats and some machinery. It took three days to make the 150-mile trip. The



Jacob Mast Sr. and wife Maria, 1909.



Jake Mast Sr. and daughter Lorriane, 1953.



Mast family. Back row (l. to r.): Jacob Jr., Emma, Helen, Jacob Sr., and Art. Front row (l. to r.): Frieda, Irma, Bill, Alex. About 1928.

children went to school at Ideal. Jake grubbed brush all winter for a couple of years, then he bought a 20-24 inch brush-breaker from Massey Harris, put on eight horses and they broke up the land.

Emma married John Mast in 1929 and they farmed four miles S.W. of Vegreville on the Holden road. They had five children: Harry, Rita, Kurt, Bob and Lois. After John died in 1967, his son Kurt took over the farm. Emma now resides in Sherwood Park, Alta.

In 1933, Art Mast married Clara Schette who lived on the Prairie Lodge farm owned by a Richard-son. They had two sons, Roland and Cecil. They now reside in White Rock, B.C.

Jacob Mast Jr. (Jake Jr.) married Iris Richards in 1939 and he was the B.A. and later Gulf Oil Dealer in Vegreville for 38 years. They had one daughter, Judy. They presently reside in Edmonton, Alta.

Irma married William Bressmer in 1933 and they farmed near Edmonton, the Jasper Place area which is now part of Edmonton. They had six children, Jerry, Billy, Richard, June, Joy and Gail. Both Irma and Bill died in 1972.

Jake's second wife, Helene, died in 1940 and he was once again a widower. In 1943 he put an ad in



Helene Mast (Kempin) and sons Bruno and Harry. About 1948.

some papers and a neighbour of Helene Kempin's showed it to her. Helene was a widow living 11 miles south of Spirit Wood, Sask. on a homestead. Her husband, Wilhelm, had died in 1941 of tuberculosis. They had two sons, Bruno born 1926 and Harry born 1929. Jacob married Helene in June, 1943, and they lived on the farm 12 miles south of Vegreville where they had a half-section. They later bought another half-section, which Bruno and Harry farmed. They mix-farmed: grain, a few cows, chickens and turkeys. A daughter, Lorriane, was born to Jake and Helene in 1950. At the age of 70, Jake built a chicken barn and raised chickens until the age of 81 when he retired and they moved to Edmonton. He had farmed in the Vegreville area for almost 50 years. Jake died at the age of 87 years 11 months, July 1975. Helene moved back to Vegreville in 1976 and just celebrated her 73rd birthday this year.

Bruno Kempin married Clara Haldimann in 1954. They reside and farm 13 miles south of Vegreville and have three children: Edmund born 1956, Roland born 1957 and Heidi born 1960.

Harry Kempin farmed beside Bruno until 1967 when Bruno bought his quarter and Harry moved to Vegreville where he still resides.

Lorriane Mast married Clinton Ziegler in 1970. They reside and farm four miles north of Vegreville on Highway No. 857. They have a boy and a girl, Sheldon born in 1975 and Fronde, born in 1978.



Ed Albrecht at front of hayrack, Bill Mast in front of horses, 1922.

Mayer, Hans and Bertha

by Mina (Mayer) Albrecht and Hans Mayer, Jr.

Hans and Bertha Mayer emigrated to Canada in February, 1913.

A gravestone mason by trade, in his own business, he left Germany to come to Canada. He came to a new, unfamiliar land, a new trade and a new life.

Coming to Canada was to be Hans and Bertha's honeymoon trip. After reading in the newspapers about a new land of milk and honey, and being of an adventurous nature, they decided to make this their new home. Hans had been in Canada with a friend in 1912 to find land. It was at that time that N¹/₂ - 35 - 51 -



Hans and Bertha Mayer, 1914.



Hans Mayer and friend in 1913, building a bridge over the Wah-Ski-Wa Creek.

15 W4 was purchased for \$29.00 per acre, from Mr. Pelletier. This land had a small frame house on a hill, and a stream of water. To them, this was paradise. It was interesting that land next door was available for \$25.00 per quarter-section.

From dreams to reality, this was no exception for Hans and Bertha. Hans had no agricultural knowledge; Bertha, who had been training young girls to cook, had now to learn a new language — both French and English, fight the loneliness and economically survive. Bertha credits the rural telephone system of that time for help with learning the language by listening to others' conversations. Also, reading the romance stories in the Winnipeg Free Press helped in this way.

It was not until 1923 that a visit could be made back to the homeland of Germany. After a short stay and seeing the poor conditions that existed there, they came home to Alberta more determined than ever to make farming a good life for them.

By now Bertha was a typical Canadian. She could swing an axe as well as Hans could, and on her way home from the woods would shoot a rabbit or a partridge and have it ready for supper. At harvest time it was normal to see the carriage with the children out in the field, while the stooking of grain was in progress. Mornings and evenings eight cows had to be milked by hand, while Hans was away threshing. When word came that the threshing crew were coming, Bertha would go out to shoot a pig and have it prepared for the hungry men for supper.

The Holstein herd, established in 1926, came from British Columbia. Breeding stock were sold in many parts of Canada and this helped economically during the lean years of the 1920's and the 1930's.

Hans and Bertha played an active role in church life. In the early years a regular Sunday trip of nine miles was made to the Christian Reformed Church, south of the home farm. In 1928 a Lutheran congregation was established in Vegreville, and being closer, this became the family worship centre.



The watering trough served both man and beast. In the pool Fred, Katie and Mina Mayer, on the Hans Mayer farm, 1935.



Making silage with a Case steam engine and a Blizzards stationary feed cutter. Oats freshly cut was hauled by the threshing gang and hand-fed into the cutter. Gottfried Hohl could usually be found inside the silo, packing the silage, 1928.

Hospitality was commonplace with Hans and Bertha Mayer. Many young immigrants coming over from Europe, who could not find work, would stay with the Mayers and fill up on Bertha's good food. Until a place to work was found, everyone was welcome. The family home can boast that it was a centre of life, not only for the family but also the community. There were weddings, showers, meetings and funerals. After a flash fire that destroyed the Old Vegreville school in 1938, school was held in the Mayer home.

Hans was active on the local school board when, during the depression, no school taxes were collected.

The local fair was an active part of their lives. Many awards for grain, grasses and Holstein cattle were taken.

Hans was very progressive in learning the new ways of agriculture and was an ardent friend of Fred Newcombe, the district agriculturist, who encouraged him to raise chickens for the sale of hatching eggs at the local hatchery. Also hogs were imported from Sweden. The dairy field days held at the farm were of great interest to the community.

From 1931-1938 the Burk B. Roberts ranch was farmed with the help of several employees, and it was not unusual to see five binders following each other down the field. At times the horses would get startled and a runaway would result, only to be stopped when hitting a clump of trees.

Hans and Bertha Mayer were blessed with four children:

Fred, born in 1914, lives in Chilliwack. He is married to Odella (nee Harter). They have two children and four grandchildren.

Katie (Mrs. Ernest Schilling), born in 1916, lives in Blaubeuren, Germany; has two sons and five grandchildren.

Mina (Mrs. Philip) Albrecht of Vegreville, was born in 1921, and has two children.

Hans Mayer, born 1928, and his wife Mary have one son; they reside on the home farm at Vegreville.

Hans Sr. died in 1943 and Bertha in 1974. Both are buried in Vegreville.

Mazankowski, Donald and Lorraine by Greg Mazankowski

Donald Frank Mazankowski has played a progressive and important role in the development of the community of Vegreville over the past twenty years. He was born to Frank and Dora Mazankowski and raised on a farm near Viking, Alberta. During high school he was a gas attendant at a garage on weekends, and he worked as a truck dispatcher in Chicago for a year before returning to open his own garage at Innisfree in 1955. Four years later he moved to Vegreville where, with his brother, Ray, he started a GM dealership, **Raydon Motors**. Together, the brothers also engaged in extensive farming operations, specifically the production of grains and oilseeds in the Vegreville area.

In 1958 Don married Lorraine Poleschuk, a nurse from Clandonald, Alberta. Lorraine is a quiet, charming, and efficient helpmate to her busy husband; she is also involved in volunteer work with church and hospital in Vegreville. They have three sons: Gregory, Roger, and Donald Fitzgerald, all presently calling Vegreville their home.

Don "Maz" has been very active in politics for many years, first serving as the regional director of the Vegreville Progressive Conservative Association in 1962, and then as president from 1963 to 1968. He is past Northern Vice-president and Northern Chairman for the Organization of the Alberta P.C. Association. He was first elected to the House of Commons in 1968, and has been returned with increased majorities in 1972, 1974, and 1979. During his parliamentary career, he served as Chairman, P.C. Caucus Committee on Youth, 1969-71; Co-



A recent photo of the popular Mazankowski family. Front (l. to r.): Lorraine and Don. Back row (l. to r.): Roger, Don Jr., and Greg, 1979.

chairman, P.C. Caucus Committee on Regional Development, 1971-1972; Chairman, P.C. Caucus Committee on Transportation, 1972-1974; Chairman, P.C. Caucus, September, 1973 to April, 1976; Co-chairman, P.C. Leadership Convention, 1975-1976; Chairman, P.C. Caucus Committee for Government Operations, 1976-1977; and Chairman, P.C. Caucus Committee for Transportation and Communications from October, 1977 to dissolution of the 30th Parliament in March, 1979.

With his party's success in the May, 1979, general election, Don Mazankowski became the first Member of Parliament from the Vegreville Constituency to be appointed to the Federal Cabinet, his portfolio being Minister of Transport and Minister Responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board.

Don is also a member of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, and he belongs to other international parliamentary organizations. He was an observer at the 24th session of the United Nations General Assembly in 1969, and in 1971 he attended the 8th Caribbean Regional Conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. He is an honorary member of the Indian Association of Alberta, and in Vegreville he belongs to the Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Club, and Knights of Columbus.

Melenka, Jack **by the Melenka Family**

Jack Melenka was born at Andrew, Alberta, in 1907, the seventh in a family of ten. His Ukrainian parents, Fred and Dora Melenka (nee Dora Kereluik), were born in Austria in the province of Bukowina and arrived in Canada in 1897.

The family farmed and encountered many hardships. Their father died in 1914 and they lost their

mother just one year later. The children were then raised by their sixteen-year-old sister Pearl.

Jack attended school in Andrew and at the age of twelve left to fashion his own life. In those early years he worked on farms in order to have a place to stay while attending school as often as possible. He worked in a bush camp one winter in order to buy clothes for school.

When Jack first came to the Vegreville district he worked for Bill Charuk on his farm and attended school at Brookside. After completing grade eight at the age of fourteen he struck out to work full-time, first as a flunky in a bush camp. Later he spent two years on the railroad. When he tired of this he went on to Paradise Ore Mine in B.C. There he received five dollars a day for ten to eleven hours of work and one lunch break. He quit this job and went on to Kimberly where he worked in the ore mines and the smelter. Again, working conditions were severe. Jack was a strong supporter in attempts to form a union to improve working conditions. They formed a picket line, but failed to get results. Because he didn't want to get kicked around and felt with his previous experience he could make a go of farming he quit and headed for the Alberta prairies.

With the money he had saved, Jack put a thousand-dollar deposit on the NE quarter of 5-54-14-4.

Jack married a former classmate, Paraceva (Jennie) Fedoruk, on February 18, 1928, in the Ukrainian Catholic church in Mundare. Jennie came from a family of seven. Her parents were Ukrainian immigrants, Ivan (John) Fedoruk and Maria Godzuik. They lived with Jennie's parents for the first year of their marriage. A get-started gift from Jennie's parents was two horses and two cows.

In 1929 they built their first home on the land that they had previously purchased. That spring their first child, Bill, was born. The family they both wanted



Jack and Jennie Melenka (front). Jennie's parents, John and Maria Fedoruk (back) in front of Fedoruk home, 1928.



Jack and Jennie Melenka, their wedding day, 1928.

had started. Their first crop, number two northern wheat, was hauled to Vegreville by team and sold for \$1.29 a bushel. Before long the price dropped to \$1.15.

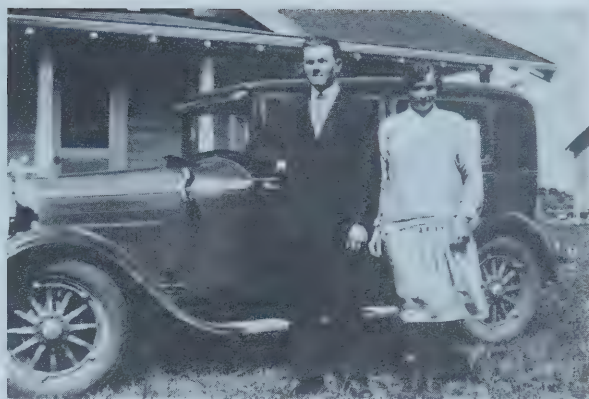
Jack obtained a 20-run seed drill for \$380 in the spring from an International dealer. There were no bank loans or farm credits at the time, so Jack made arrangements with the dealer to pay as soon as possible. In the fall he went back and said, "You enabled me to put the crop in, now I need a binder to take it off." He then purchased a binder for \$330.

After hauling the grain Jack consulted with Mr. Hinton at the Bank of Montreal about a grain advance on stored grain. Mr. Hinton told him, "My boy, if I were you I'd take the maximum and forget about the future. Lots of farmers will be selling it for fifty cents a bushel."

After paying up his bills that year Jack had \$180 left to last until next year's crop income.

By this time Warwick was developing. The railroad went through and shortened the grain hauling distance. A second son, Eddie, arrived and their lives were full and the days were busy. By now they were milking cows and selling cream at \$1.75 for a five-gallon can, as well as raising commercial hogs.

Jack had sunk a lot of money into implements and



Jack and Jennie Melenka's Essex car, 1929.



Jack and Jennie Melenka — 25th wedding anniversary, 1953.

bought land on time. He told his wife, "There's no way we can pay off our debts at this rate."

Lured by the enticing news of homesteads being opened up around Lac La Biche and Moscott Prairie, Jack, along with Pete Fedoruk, went north to check it out, while Jennie stayed home to look after the family and the homestead. The trip took six days there and back and was a disappointment because they discovered the soil was not suited to farming.

While there they met some men who were fishing and discussed the price of fish. Jack decided to buy a wagon box full and resell it at the homestead. They doubled their money on this gamble. Said Jack, "I found it odd that people would pay 15¢ a pound for fish but only 2¢ a pound for the best beef."

Thus ended the dream of a move northward. The decision to continue farming with what they had and take their chances during that recession period was made.

In March of 1932 the family had a new addition, a daughter, Lorraine.

At that time Jack began to realize how vitally important good draft horses were to the farming operation. In 1933 he decided that purebred Percherons would be a good choice for breeding purposes. The day he approached Mr. Hinton about a loan to purchase a stallion he was told, "Jack, you know there are only two kinds of fools — those who buy stallions and those who buy threshing machines. Both have gone broke." In spite of these cautious words of advice Jack remained firm in his decision, and was given a \$600 loan. This turned out to be a profitable move because the government was providing grants and matching dollar for dollar for stud services. So the charge to the farmer was \$10 and the profit to Jack \$20. After organizing a route, Jack hired a man to travel the stud and began organizing the Spring Creek Percheron Club.

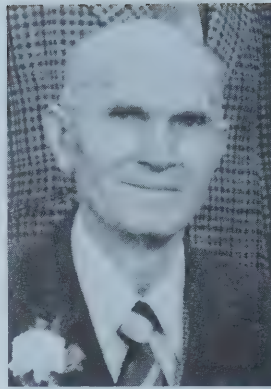
In 1934 the SE ¼ of 5-54-14-4 was purchased from Jennie's parents. That same year a contract was drawn up with Charlie Gordon to build a 30 x 48 foot barn. Profits from the stallion venture enabled Jack to pay \$1000 cash for the barn even during the depths of the depression.

The barn was later painted for \$50. A brave hired man offered to do the job which was a real challenge because of the 25-foot height. The man tied a rope around the ventilator at the top of the barn and the other end of the rope around his waist. During the painting he lost his footing, slipped and got hung up. Dangling in mid-air with splashed paint all over himself and the barn, the poor man was scared to death until Jennie came to his rescue and moved the ladder over to his side of the barn.

In March of 1935 the stork made an unusual appearance. Nature told Jennie that it was high time to get to the hospital. So in thirty-degree below weather, she, Jack and Baba Fedoruk set out for Vegreville with sleigh and horses and lots of blankets and bricks for warmth. They had only gone a short way when a very strong, impatient baby decided to make his entrance into the world. All went miraculously well and there seemed no point in going further, so they returned home with their new son Eugene.

That same year the old house was moved with four horses to the yard where the new barn had been built. During the house-moving the family lived in two granaries.

In 1937 Charlie Gordon was hired to build a new house. When it was completed Mr. Spies was hired to install plumbing and power. This was one of the first homes in the immediate area to enjoy the luxury of running water and indoor plumbing.



Golden wedding anniversary of Jack and Jennie Melenka, Feb., 1978.

Power for the house was provided by a Delco stored in the basement and started each day, running long enough to charge the sixteen batteries which in those days cost \$500.

One early morning an electrical storm developed as the chores were being done. Eugene was alone in the kitchen when a bolt of lightning struck the house with a bang. Both front and back doors were open and the lightning went in one door and out the other. Eugene was shocked with fright and ran to the barn. For a moment he was speechless but finally managed to utter, "Something like a wire flew past my nose." It was discovered that the Delco had started and the lightning had grounded the points on the starter which caused them to seize. Jack managed with great difficulty to stop the motor because it had shorted and melted the switch.

Jack was always active in Community affairs. In 1930 he initiated the setting up of a Co-op in Warwick and served as its president until 1942.

During the war years many men were away from the area serving their country. This resulted in a shortage of farm workers. "I could see the handwriting on the wall and decided now was the time to make a change," said Jack. In 1940 they bought their first tractor, an all-steel John Deere, for \$1400. This speeded up the farming operations considerably and it was decided that this was the way to go. Before long they purchased a second John Deere which Jack picked up in Edmonton and drove home one cold fall day at a record eight miles per hour. A ten-foot tiller and a four-bottom plow were now in use as well as a threshing machine.

The older children were by now a real help on the farm. During harvest a crew of eight to ten men were needed. Said Jennie, "It really kept me hopping, cooking for all the hungry men as well as doing the chores and other work around the house." Some years the weather was cooperative and harvest was

completed with a minimum of anxiety. Other years long rainy spells resulted in delays and added expense as the crew had to be kept and fed until the weather cleared up again.

By 1945 the family had decided to raise registered purebred Herefords. Ten heifers and a bull made up the first herd. In 1946 the family was also increasing in size as a daughter, Marion, was born.

In 1947 they purchased their first combine due to lack of help during the harvest time. Jack remembers moving the granaries from one location to another to accommodate the year's grain. One day he hitched up his four lively horses and was moving the granary through the field at a nice fast clip. While going through a slough the willow and poplar branches started hitting the sides of the granary with a loud noise. This frightened the horses and they took off as if they were pulling an apple box instead of a granary, leaving Jack behind. Luckily the horses ran into a thick clump of bush which brought them to a halt. Relieved to find no damage done to the granary, Jack discovered the harness was badly tangled and the side of the granary was up against some trees.

In 1948 Jack's lifelong interest in politics came to a head and he ran as a CCF candidate in the provincial election. He lost the election by only 170 votes. He found the political arena exciting but very hard work. Jack became deeply involved in more aspects of community activity. He was an active member of the Farmers' Union of Alberta and began involving himself and his children in 4-H clubs. Several times the family won top awards including grand champion three years in a row.

By that time the eldest son Bill was attending the Vermilion School of Agriculture. Eddie left home to join the navy, where he served for two years including thirteen months active duty in Korea. Lorraine moved to Edmonton and attended high school at St. John's Institute.

In 1949 Jack organized the Warwick Rural Electrification Association and served as president for twenty-five years.

That year the Jack Melenka family was one of five master farm families. The neighbours nominated Jack and his family for this award. They were scored by the local District Agriculturist, Home Economist and Provincial Agricultural Representative. The farm was divided into five divisions which included family accommodations, neatness and livestock sanitation, yard maintenance, involvement in community projects, field husbandry and church and school participation. Through the cooperative effort of the family and Jack's unfailing efforts to always do the best he could in any situation, the family won the highest honour the province could give a farm fam-



The Melenka Family receiving the Master Farm Award in 1949. (l. to r.): Bill, Jack, Eugene, Jennie, Gerhart, and Lorraine. Absent from picture is Ed, who was in the Navy at the time.

ily. The family received a \$1000 cheque and an engraved plaque from the Honourable C. E. Gerhart, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Provincial Treasurer. The family was also honoured with a banquet sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce. The award seemed a culmination of the years of hard work and dedication to farming and the participation in the community where Jack persisted despite a history of heart attacks and years of struggle.

In 1950 their last child, Allan, was born. By 1953 Eugene finished high school and had decided to farm.

Jack's efforts in the community continued. In 1951 he was elected vice-president of the Vegreville seed cleaning plant and served on the board until 1971. In 1961 he was elected supervisor of the Vegreville Feeders' Association which he helped organize and served in that capacity for twenty years. He was also a director of the National Farmers' Union for six years.

In 1963 Jack and Jennie and the two youngest children built a new home and moved a half-mile west. In 1964 Marion finished high school and left for McTavish Business College.

For several years Jack enjoyed the challenge of building up another farm, until he retired and moved to Vegreville in the fall of 1973.

He continued to be active on the farm and in the community. In 1974 he joined the Senior Citizens' Club and later became their president. During this time he helped organize the renovations of the CN station into the Senior Citizens' Drop-in Center.

Because of his poor health Jack is no longer able to be as active in the community as he once was.

Jack and Jennie recently celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary with a surprise gathering at their home. All the children were present as well as their eighteen grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

Where are the children now?

Bill and Marie (Struksnes) and their daughter Shauna live in Edmonton. Bill had been employed by the city for the last twenty-one years as a semi-truck driver.

Ed and Rose (Rutar) farm west of Warwick. Ed is employed by Cavalier Energy. They have six children, Michael, Dale, Darlene, Dennis, Rosemarie and Donna, and one grandchild Shannon.

Lorraine and Al Trudeau and their three children Terry, Deana and Carla live in Edmonton. Lorraine is the assistant manageress of the Londonderry Hotel.

Eugene, Madeleine (Naeth), Lorilynn, David and Kevin are active in mixed farming and raising registered purebred Herefords on the home place.

Marion and Victor Lazaruk reside in Vegreville. Their children are Sharon, Charlene, Daren, Kimberly and Lisa. Marion, besides being a dedicated wife and mother, makes time for a part-time job and community activities involving the children.

Allan and his wife Anne (Naeth) are farming the second homestead. They are also carrying on the family tradition of mixed farming and raising registered purebred Herefords.

Melnychuk, John and Mary **by Anne (Hayduk) Karcha**

John Melnychuk was born in 1903, in Poland, of Ukrainian descent. He came to Canada with his parents in 1905. At the age of eighteen, while out duck-shooting, he accidentally shot off his right hand. He overcame this disability to such an extent that he was able to do what everyone else did. With only the use of his left hand, his accomplishments were amazing indeed, and he was a wonderful example to many people.

In 1927 he married Mary Chopko who, as a young girl, had come from Kalnikow, Poland, in 1925, with her sister, Annie, to the home of Peter and Pearl Hayduk. Mary was a very hard-working person and together they cleared, broke and cultivated land, hauled logs, built all their buildings, shingled the roofs and mud-plastered the walls inside and out.

John and Mary raised a family of five children all now living in Edmonton.

Anne is married to Peter Homeniuk and has three boys.

Mike is married to Genia Stoyak and has one girl.

Bill is married to Marian Eliuk and has two boys.

Eddy married Maria Sorochan and has two boys.

George married Pauline Sorochan and has two boys.

In 1977 John and Mary's children, relatives and friends gathered to celebrate the occasion of their Golden Wedding Anniversary. They are in good



John and Mary Melnychuk, Innisfree, Alberta, 50th wedding anniversary, 1977.



This house was built of logs by John and Mary Melnychuk. John has only one arm, 1977.



Pile of cut and split wood for burning in stoves, at John and Mary Melnychuk's place, 1980.

health and derive great pleasure from growing a large garden which they share with many friends. They are still living happily on the farm.

Merkel, Jacob and Family

by Phyllis Merkel

Jacob Merkel, a 95-year-old pioneer of Canada, came to this country with his parents at the young age of eight. They settled in Winnipeg and were educated there until they were old enough to go out and work. There was a brother Adolph and another named John. Having lost their mother, their father remarried with more half-brothers and sisters. It was necessary for them to go out on their own and earn their own way. Jack worked for a doctor, driving him to patients with a team of horses — cutter in winter and buggy in summer. He tells stories of trips in cold weather and the many hours he was called to drive the doctor. He also drove the school teacher (the doctor's daughter) to and from school. Later he worked as a delivery boy for a shoemaker who made shoes-to-measure and tells of driving down "Edmonton Street" in Winnipeg with boxes of shoes piled high on his carrier.

Jack came west around the turn of the century with his brother Adolph and worked for a farmer at Josephburg, a Mr. Becker who was his uncle. At the age of 22 he married Katie Wagner and they settled on their own homestead northeast of Vegreville at S.W. ¼ Sec. 24, Twsp. 53, R. 14. They had a two-storey log house. There they raised 3 boys, Reinhold, Edward and Ernest. The elder ones became farmers and Ernie a barber, and he still barbers in the same shop in Vegreville. They moved to another farm in 1919 and built a frame house and big red barn and many other buildings. Katie was well-known for the beautiful flower garden and her cookery. After working hard for many years they retired to Edmonton where they lived for 31 years. Katie passed away at the ripe old age of 89. Since then Jack has lived in the Homestead Lodge and the Vegreville Nursing Home. In January, 1980, he looks forward to his 96th birthday, still active and retaining his memory. He still tells many stories of the past, both happy occasions and sad.

While living in Edmonton Jack worked as a salesman selling iron railings to new house owners. He walked many miles in one day and would take the streetcar or city bus home. His boss used to say he was a better salesman than some of the younger ones. Katie was always busy in her garden and strangers would stop and ask to admire her flowers. New friends were made in this way, being always generous with bouquets, new roots and seeds. Roses and many flowers surrounded their cottage in Edmonton and people would stop to take pictures. Jack and Katie



Jack and Katie Merkel in front of Brush Hill church, 1940's.



(l. to r.) — Reinhold Merkel, Ernie Merkel, Jake Wagner, Edward Merkel. About 1944.



Ernie Merkel in barber shop, 1956.

have four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Jack enjoys their visits and joins the family gatherings at the home of Ernie and Phyllis and family.

Meyer, Elmer and Emma by Edna Meyer

Elmer Meyer and Emma Jones were married at Vegreville by Rev. G. R. Lang at the home of her mother Mrs. Abel Huff on June 1, 1910. It was a June wedding but, instead of the sun shining, an unseasonable snow fell.

Elmer was born in Clarksville, Missouri, on January 21, 1884. His parents died when he was very young and he lived with an uncle until his eldest sister was old enough to take over the responsibility of making a home for him. He left home when he thought he was old enough to fend for himself. He joined the navy at the age of 14 years and saw some of the world. Being a sailor wasn't his idea of a career, so he left the sea-going life and made his way working in logging camps to North and South Dakota and into Minnesota. He finally crossed into Canada and decided he would like to try farming, so filed on 160 acres of land near Wilkie, Saskatchewan. His first home was a sod shack on the prairie and miles from any town. During the following years he cultivated the required number of acres so he could get the title to his land. The location wasn't ideal to him so he finally sold the land. He headed west to Alberta in 1909 and bought a quarter-section of land near Royal Park.

Emma Jones was born in Browns' Valley, Minnesota, January 15, 1893. In 1902, she and her brother Harry came to Alberta with their mother and their step-father Mr. and Mrs. Abel Huff. Several families



Harriet Huff, Elmer Meyer and son Walter on Chev. car; Clare Tillapaugh, Edith, Grace and Iva Meyer, 1918.



Threshing at Elmer Meyer's, 1925.

of relatives and friends decided to leave the States at this time and try their luck in Canada. They settled on land at Strathcona, south of Edmonton, for the first winter. They were there to see the first train cross over the Saskatchewan River. Several of the men from the group journeyed on by teams and wagons until they reached Vegreville where they decided they would settle. They bought land from the C.P.R. for \$3.00 an acre. Recalling names of the families who settled in the area were Henry Freeman and his wife Anna. Anna was the daughter of Abel Huff. His son Alfred also bought land. Others were members of the Huff families, Deckers, Tillapaughs, Emerys and many more. Harriet and Abel Huff built their home on the farm north-west of Vegreville which is now owned by Gordon Ziegler. They cultivated land and ran a herd of cattle and raised horses. Fire was a hazard and their barn was razed to the ground losing some valuable animals. Prairie fires swept the country and every available person would turn out to try and stop them.

Emma and Harry started school at Ryan, following foot paths through the woods. When the district



Glen Meyer — World War II, (1939-45).

got more settled, parents decided to build a school in a more central location. The district of Park Grove was formed with Mr. and Mrs. Huff submitting the name which was chosen. Emma and Harry had a shorter distance to travel but they still had to walk. They had horses to ride, to round up the cattle when they returned from school, but weren't allowed to ride them otherwise. Therefore, with chores at home, education took second place, and as soon as they were old enough they left school behind them.

Abel Huff had a stroke and passed away in 1908. They had a big farm sale and divided up the land. His widow Harriet took the quarter-section south of the home. Anna Freeman took the farm home and Alfred had the S. E. quarter of the section. After Emma was married in 1910, Mrs. Huff and son Harry decided to move to the Hamlin district. In 1920 she married Clare Tillapaugh. She passed away in 1934 and Clare passed away in 1935. Harry returned to Minnesota where he lived till he passed away in 1956.

Emma and Elmer Meyer bought the S.W. ¼-53-15-W4 from her mother, and the S.E. ¼ from her step-brother Alfred Huff and moved there from their home by Royal Park. The three oldest children were born at home, but the R.M.B. hospital was built in Vegreville by the time the four younger children were born.

The six older children attended the same school as their mother. The school was remodelled in 1930 before the youngest son Albert was old enough to go.

Edith was the oldest daughter and she was fortunate in having the McCleery girls across the road to go to school with. Their respective fathers took turns providing transportation for them. During the years

Walter Meyer — World War II, (1939-45).



while the youngsters attended the country school, different modes of transportation were provided, sometimes taken by their parents, with the Ziegler children, and often with the horses either ridden or driven. After the three oldest girls passed grade 8 they attended high school in Vegreville. In 1936 grade 9 was taught in the country school.

Emma Meyer was interested in all things pertaining to her home, besides being a devoted mother. She planted a large garden and was always experimenting with new varieties to see if they were suitable to the climate. She grew house plants and was always generous in giving a friend a plant which they coveted.

Elmer took an active part in community affairs. He was a trustee of the Park Grove school for a number of years, a shareholder of the Vegreville Exhibition Board, a member of the Alberta Wheat Pool, a Councillor for the Municipal District of Norma, and was a director for the Chautauqua.

The Chautauqua was an annual entertainment in Vegreville for a number of years. The active members would help erect a large-size tent on the grounds across from the old High School in Vegreville. The programs included plays, music, comedy events, lectures, etc. and lasted a week with afternoon and evening performances. Folks from all the surrounding areas attended the events.

Elmer was a director of the Vegreville Exhibition Board and the family attended the three-day affair. He helped the judge and the exhibitors with the cattle in the show ring. It was always very interesting when some of our own garden produce and grain were entered and you saw the red ribbons awarding you first prize. The arena was a great gathering place for the ladies, meeting others only at such events. The children would always meet others and enjoy the midway. Jumbo, the children's Shetland pony, was bought when Walter saw him at the exhibition. Bill Wagner was showing him. Gasoline motor washing machines were being demonstrated and Elmer decided that was what Emma needed when she had to wash



Edna Meyer pulling a pail of water from well, 1949.

clothes for a large family. New farm machines were on display, and free literature was given away on many things.

Meyer's built a big barn in 1917. When the loft was not being used for storing hay, the children had ropes attached to the rafters for a swing. It was a great gathering place for the neighborhood children.

Elmer bought his first car in 1918 which was a Chevrolet. The next car was a Star, and later a Buick. Then the hard times arrived and it was back to the horses and wagons again.

He bought a tractor in 1927. It was a John Deere Model D on steel wheels. That was a great saving on the horses and he was able to break up more land for crops. He did contract jobs for other farmers which helped defray the cost of the machine. This tractor cultivated many acres and was well worth the price of less than one thousand dollars. Farm help was plentiful and Elmer usually had a hired man whom he paid \$20.00 a month during busy seasons.

During the 1930's, hard times were felt by the farming folk. Unemployed men took to the roads and worked at any menial job. They were called hoboes or tramps and rode freight trains from town to town. Emma never turned away anyone without a meal even though it sometimes wasn't much. The more willing ones would offer to split wood or some such task for a meal or a place to sleep. Others would more or less demand a meal as though they were entitled to be fed. Farmers from the dried-out areas in Saskatchewan would pass by with a team of horses hitched to a rack loaded with some household possessions, perhaps leading a cow or two. They were headed to the Peace River country where they heard of new land opening up.

In 1932 Elmer decided to look for new land also and filed on a homestead at Caslan, about 120 miles north of Vegreville. This area had been reserved for a forest, but a fire had started and burned over the trees. In 1939 he sold his farm to Henry Ziegler. Then he moved his wife and family to their new home. They loaded two box cars on the train with livestock, machinery and household effects. Emma had her houseplants and a canary included.

The country was primitive in those days so it was pioneering again. Roads were non-existent at this time. There was just a trail from their home to Caslan, winding through the trees hitting the higher land to avoid sloughs and muskegs. Freight was brought into the settlement from Edmonton twice a week. The mail was delivered by train and it was a highlight



Elmer and Emma Meyer and family on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary, June 1, 1960. Back row (l. to r.): Walter, Albert, Glen. Front row (l. to r.): Edith, Elmer, Edna, Emma, Iva, Grace.

to have the outside news in newspapers, magazines and letters. It was hard work clearing the land to plant crops. But with perseverance a few more acres of cultivated ground were ready each year.

Albert was still in school and he had over a mile to walk on a footpath to reach the one-room log school house. Even though the country was primitive in many ways, it was a beautiful place with lots of lakes, pine, spruce and birch trees surrounding the farm and roadways. Blueberries and cranberries grew in abundance, and fishing was a great sport. Moose and deer were seen on the open land, and the bears prowled through the pastures.

The eldest daughter Edith was married to Clayton Henson in 1933. They were blessed with seven sons and five daughters, namely: Donald, Rockford, Bertton, Allan, Laurence, Arthur, Ronnie, Gladys, Gloria, Margaret, Marlene and Heather. They farmed in the Caslan area for several years. Clayton joined the army in 1941 and in leaving the service worked in Edmonton for a number of years. They returned to Caslan for a time before deciding to retire in Edmonton. All their children are married and live nearby, and with grandchildren around they live an enjoyable life.

Iva, the second daughter, decided there were more job opportunities in the city so she left the farm. She worked for 26 years and when she decided to retire, returned to Caslan. She is enjoying travelling now and has visited most of the states in the U.S., been across Canada from coast to coast, and toured some of Europe.

Grace, the third daughter, married Jack Bury in 1933 and they decided to try their luck farming also. They moved around more, living in four provinces, Alberta, British Columbia, Saskatchewan and Manitoba. However, they have returned to Caslan and have retired in the hamlet. They had four children, but their oldest son Raymond passed away in 1956. Their youngest son Willard and daughters Muriel and Loretta are married and live with their families in British Columbia.

Walter, the oldest son, enlisted in the army in 1942 and served until the end of World War 2. He married a Scottish girl, Kathleen Lamb, while overseas, and she joined him in Canada as soon as she could get passage. Walter took an active part in community affairs. He helped build the first school in Caslan, and was instrumental in bringing new schools into the hamlet. He served as trustee and secretary of the local school board for a number of years, then took on the job of postmaster for 16 years. Due to ill health, he retired and moved to Stony Plain where their two sons lived. Vernon and Dale are both

married. Walter passed away in 1976 at the age of 59 years.

Edna, the youngest daughter of the family, makes her home with Glen on the farm. She plants a large vegetable garden each spring, also grows strawberries and raspberries. She considers it a hobby until the work involved changes it to a chore.

Glen is the only son of their pioneer parents to make farming his career. He bought more land and decided to raise cattle instead of growing grain. He takes an interest in community affairs, was on the local school board, devoted time to a covered arena which was built in the hamlet, was a member of the Recreation Board, serves on the Hospital Board in Boyle, is an active member of the Lac La Biche Natural Gas Board bringing gas to the community, and is involved with other charitable organizations. Glen joined the army in 1943 and served in an armoured regiment in Italy and Western Europe till the end of the war.

Albert, the youngest son, left the farm for Edmonton where he was employed for many years in the furniture business. Later he decided to change his employment and worked for 16 years with the Government as a correctional officer at the Fort Saskatchewan Jail. Now he is employed at the Remand Centre in Edmonton. Albert married Winnie Chettleborough and they have four sons: Randy, Lyle, Lloyd and Gordon, and one daughter, Janet. Albert is active in sports and has managed and coached minor hockey and baseball for many years in Edmonton.

Elmer Meyer passed away in 1963 at the age of 79. Emma Meyer passed away in 1967 at the age of 74.

Mihalcean, Peter as told to Betty Hantiuk

In 1909 Peter Mihalcean left Bukovina with parents Steven and Sarah, settling at the little village of Boian, on a quarter-section, NW 34-55-14. They followed the advice of friends who had come before; many were disappointed with the new land at first because it did not conform to colorful advertising. Close neighbors were: A. M. Boutillier, who became secretary of the municipality; Pat Boutillier; McGowans who had a store as well as a farm; Brownlees; Geo Weber; Telsrows; Havens; Yurkos; Iftodys; and Hutzkals.

Peter remembers the hard trips to Edmonton for supplies, with the roadside bush being the only hotel available for weary travellers. There was always fear of prairie fires, since much land was still uncultivated. In order to get set up on the farm, most men

worked out at least part-time at such jobs as lumbering, mining, and rail-construction, often far from home and family.

In 1918, Peter married Maria Skirca of the same district, although previously, from about 1911 till 1921, the Skircas had lived in Vegreville, operating a livery barn behind Bill Rogers' house. Maria recalls people coming in from the north to stay overnight, bringing their own food **and drink!** If these over-nighters got too noisy, Bill Rogers would hear them, and would put the rowdy ones in a little shack behind his house until they cooled off. She also remembers shopping in the nice stores owned by Lemiski (now Sol's), Svarich, and Clements. Later, the Skircas, being Romanian, moved north to join the many Romanian families in the Boian area. Mrs. Skirca, nearing the century mark, lives in the Nursing Home, Vegreville at present. Peter and Maria Mahalcean raised a large family on the farm, then returned to Vegreville in 1961, first to a cottage on Hospital Avenue, and presently in The Homestead Lodge. Peter died in 1979.

Miller, August **by Hester (Miller) Volkman**

My parents were Mr. and Mrs. August Miller who came to Canada in 1912 from Kansas, influenced by my uncle Mr. Adam Gienger and a good friend of my parents, Mr. O. Blackburn. After renting farms for a few years, Dad bought land approximately 10 miles north-east of Holden. We were a family of ten children; one brother died at an early age. The others of our family are as follows: **John Eberhart**, who was our half brother; he was married to Elizabeth Giebelhaus and they farmed in the Holden district. Both are now deceased.

Christina, who was married to Edward Gienger and they farmed for many years in the area south of Vegreville and then sold their farm and moved to Lynden, Washington. Both are deceased now.

Albert, was married to Amelia Weitzell and lived at various places but the last of their years in Edmonton, Alberta; both deceased.

Elizabeth, who is married to John A. Giebelhaus, farmed in the Holden district for many years before retiring to Sherwood Park where they live at present.

Dorothy, who was married to Fred Kaiser, lived at various places and after Fred's death Dorothy lived in Edmonton and Calgary where she also passed away.

Gustav (Gus) is married to Elsa Bauer who came from Germany. After farming for several years they sold out and moved to Vancouver, B.C. where they are now residing.

Hester(myself) was married to Kurt Volkman who came from Germany and settled in the New Sarepta

area, farming there. He passed away three and a half years ago and I continue to live in the Village here.

Lydia, who was married to Julius Bauer, used to farm in the Vegreville district and after many years moved to Rocky Mountain House. Both are deceased.

Martha is married to Sig Anderson; they are farming at Meeting Creek, Alberta.

My parents were active in the Evangelical Church which they helped organize. The Church is situated about half-way between Holden and Vegreville.

Miller, George and Annie **by The Family**

George Miller arrived in Stony Plain on the sixteenth day of February, 1909 at the age of fourteen, having made the long trip from Norka, Russia (a German settlement) to join his mother, Elizabeth; sister, Elizabeth; and brother, John. They had arrived in Canada several months earlier. A married sister Alice Traudt remained in Russia and did not come to Canada until 1924. Millers lived in Stony Plain for ten years where George put in many long days of labour on farms and in lumber camps. It was here that Elizabeth met and married Louis Knies, and where Mrs. Miller, whose husband had died before leaving Russia, married Mr. Ludwig Yost.

In 1919, George moved to the Old Vegreville District where he purchased the N.E. 22-51-15 and began farming. The Knieses and John Miller had moved to Vegreville earlier in 1915 and Yosts came later in 1920. In 1922 George married Annie Elizabeth Giebelhaus of the Martins District, who had come to Canada with her parents at the age of one from Norka, Russia. George and Annie were the first couple to be married in the Martins Reformed Church later known as the Salem Reformed Church. George and Annie made the Salem Church the centre of their social and religious activities. Sunday after Sunday the couple travelled with their family to attend services and social functions held at the church. The chicken suppers held each fall had the church bursting at the seams and were well attended by people from the Vegreville and surrounding area.

The couple had five children: Edna, married to Burton Tierney, they have three children — Marilyn, Patti and Blaine; Alma, married Alan James, they have four children — Terry, Connie, Brenda and Byron; Gordon, married to Audrey Lowe, they have five children — Charlene, Craig, Beverley, Cameron and Grant; Elaine, married to Ronnie Lowe, they have two children — Janelle and Miles; and Anne, married to Allan Christensen, they have two children



Grandmother Elizabeth Yost and Marilyn (Tierney), about 1948.



George and Annie Miller, Christmas, 1975.

— Brent and Noreen. They also have seven great-grandchildren.

George and Annie often recall early experiences. Annie particularly remembers days before there were bridges and roads and the difficulties they had crossing the Vermilion River by boat and the many near-mishaps. More pleasant memories are those of catching huge fish and of picking wild berries of every kind. Picking berries to this day is one of her pleasures in life. She also remembers the long trips her father had to make to Lloydminster, not only for supplies for the family but for supplies for neighbors in order to earn money to augment the meagre farm income.

George's memories in the Vegreville District in-

clude building roads with horse-drawn scrapers; long trips to Ryley for coal in stormy winter weather; dedicated doctors, such as Dr. R. M. Reid who not only cared for their patients but drove miles into the country to attend them; square dances at neighbours' homes which George loved to call; and above all the cooperation and friendliness of neighbours when one needed help.

The couple are now retired, but George and Annie, aged eighty-four and eighty-one, continue to reside in the original farm home and are enjoying reasonably good health. Mrs. Alice Traudt died in 1929 and Mrs. Ludwig Yost died in 1955. Mrs. Knies is presently residing in Calgary where she enjoys good health and is still living by herself. John passed away in Spruce Grove in 1979.

Milner, Louis and Nassa

Nassa Rachel Greenberg was born in a small town in the Ukraine. She was the only daughter in a family of four children who survived out of seven. She learned to swim with her brothers in the Bug River and is still swimming in the Windsor Arms Apartment House where she lives in Edmonton. Although she had a very interesting childhood and became the bride of Louis Milner in 1912 after a brief



Simma Milner Holt, Festival Costume, 1934 or '35.

two weeks of courtship, she speaks mostly of her husband, who struggled to raise a family of eight children. She is proud of the fact that all of her children have a good education in various fields. She saw to it that all of them took part in sports. She played tennis with all of them in the courts in Vegreville and also skated with the family. She became an avid curler and was quite annoyed when the doctor made her stop curling at the age of eighty . . . "just because I had a sore knee".

Nevertheless, she continued her exercises at the Spa and continued lawn bowling and other bowling. Since moving to the Windsor Arms she has hardly missed a day at the Senior Citizens Drop-in Centre on 117th Street. She loves to sing and always has, and entertains the members and at any simcha (Happy Gathering), she sings songs in Hebrew, Jewish and English and has a remarkable memory for words of songs over the years.

Her greatest satisfaction comes from her activities and her donations. "No one ever leaves my house without donating." It doesn't matter if it is Easter Seals, Red Cross, Cancer, as well as The Pioneer Women, Haddasha, National Council of Jewish Women. She belongs to both the Beth Israel and Beth Sholom and contributes regularly.

There is no one in Edmonton that doesn't know and admire Nassa Milner and whenever she travels, she makes new friends. At the wedding of her grandson, Nathan Smith to Sandra Kass in Vancouver, Gramma did most of the entertaining and was the leader in a real swinging Hora.

There are many stories of her childhood and of her coming to the United States and working for a couple of dollars a week and going to night school. She came to Stony Plain as a bride and lived in many Alberta towns but has spent most of the past thirty years in Edmonton.

All her relatives and friends tell us that she sang and danced ever since she could walk and we hope she will continue to dance and sing her way into our hearts for many years to come.

Nassa Milner gets most of her morning's enjoyment by calling the Open Line Show of Fil Fraser, who waits to hear from Nassa. She is very proud of all her children and worries about how hard Simma works at her job.

Mortie lives in Calgary, operating the Elbow Lodge, has two married children, Miriam and Irving. The Irving Milners, living in Claresholm, have made Mortie and Anne grandparents within the past few months.

Hannah Milner Smith, commuting between Seattle and Vancouver, has been a widow since George died in April of 1973. In 1974 the doctor insisted she



The whole Milner family — during World War II. Early 1940's.

take early retirement and so she went completely to her second vocation, graphology. A second book has been published by Gray's of Sidney, B.C. called "The Hidden Meaning" . . . a Guide to Handwriting Analysis. Her first book, "Between the Lines", was published by McClelland and Stewart in 1970. These are the only books on graphology published in Canada. She has also been interviewed on T.V. regarding this topic. Her daughter Donna Fay, who went to school in Vegreville, was married in England to Leonard Digance, who is a potter. She is an artist and teacher and for fifteen years they have lived in Port Moody, B.C. where she teaches and he heads up the Ceramic Department of Douglas College. Their son Avrom is now a teen-ager.

Arthur now lives with and cares for Nassa, having returned from Israel about five years ago. He has one son and two granddaughters in California.

Leo lives in Calgary, and has four children. He and Kathy are also grandparents. Randy has a daughter.

Macy is a doctor in Calgary. He has three children and a grandchild.

Simma is . . . You tell me! Since the Liberals have been defeated, taking their bumps with Trudeau, she has gone back to writing. Simma is the first Jewish woman to become a Member of Parliament. She was, as you all must know, a hard-working Member of Parliament, logging up more air miles than anyone in Canada to give her all to the constituency and to be available for talks, etc. Before being coaxed into politics she had written three books, most famous, her story of the Doukhobors, "Terror In The Name of God". Lee Holt, her husband, will retire from high school teaching this year.

Mariam lived and died in Vegreville. She passed away in 1946.

Earl, the youngest of the brood, and Lynn have three daughters. Both of them are in the field of real estate. Earl has been the owner of Mitchel Drugs until recently.



Milner family — more recently. About 1970.

Nassa's 90th birthday party was amazing and she helped to plan the invitation list. Lynn was getting a mite upset because Nassa loves to get onto the talk show and we thought her open invitation to all Edmonton and whoever else listens to talk shows, would and did make it difficult to know the real count.

Louis Milner passed away January 13, 1963.

Montgomery, Colin G. and Myrtle M. by Phyllis Shanks

I can do nothing better than quote the family history written by a long-time friend and neighbor, John H. Austin. With his permission I have made additions and the story is updated to 1979. John's words are in quotation marks.

"Colin was known as Monty by his friends and neighbors. He came to settle at Ranfurly in April, 1906, from New Richmond, on Quebec's Gaspé coast, after graduating from Ontario Agricultural College at Guelph. He bought the N ½-8 which was Hudson Bay land so he was eligible to claim a non-resident homestead. As there was no homestead land left near at hand, he filed on a quarter north of Ranfurly. He sometimes hauled wood and poles from there.

"Monty was a handsome and charming young bachelor. Myrtle Stewart from Dewberry, Alberta, came in 1908 to be Ranfurly's second teacher." After leaving Toronto to farm near Red Deer in 1904, her family moved to Dewberry in 1907, leaving Myrtle behind to attend Calgary Normal School. "Apparently I was a poor student as one day Miss Stewart kept me in at recess to give me special treatment. I wouldn't read the assignment so she punished me



Ranfurly School Fair Parade, 1924.



Ranfurly School — Fair time, 1924.



Colin Montgomery on way to Ranfurly, 1912.

with strokes of a ruler on my hands. I bawled, whimpered, and my nose got runny.

"Another day, when at school, I noticed teacher crossing the wet draw from Ranfurly, walking with Monty. When they came into the schoolroom I blurted out to Monty, 'What are you doing here, are you the Inspector?' He agreed that he was. The inspector must have been satisfied as Miss Stewart became Mrs. Montgomery on October 12, 1911. They moved into the new house on the hill that Monty had built." This became Craigellachie from which the pedigreed Aberdeen Angus took their name.

"In 1913, about the time that the first rural tele-



New 'Overland' car of C. G. Montgomery, with daughter Phyllis at wheel, 1916.

phones became usable, Montgomery's daughter Phyllis was born. Their son Stewart arrived ten years later. When Vina and I visited Montgomery's in the fall of 1927, Stewart was a small boy. He kept wanting us to go home so he could go to bed.

"Monty was a dedicated man — to his family, to his livestock and his farm. He loved good horses, cattle and even sheep. I still remember his shiny chestnut gelding 'Charlie'. His registered Aberdeen Angus cattle were his great interest and this his family shared. Both Phyllis and Stewart were actively interested in calf clubs, judging teams, 4-H, etc. during their Ranfurly youth.

"Montgomerys bought S ½-8 and used it mostly for pasture. In the 1920's he had Bohannon's break a few acres on S.E. 8 with horses. Later Tuck's broke some with a 20-40 Rumely. In 1928 John Austin broke 46 acres making a total of 98 acres in that field. Monty seeded the first 10-48-0 fertilizer in our district as an experiment in 1934. He mixed 1000 pounds 10-48-0 with his seed wheat and seeded the mixture through his old Cockshutt shoe drill on one-half the field. This was on land adjoining my fields. I was amazed at the improved crop stand on the fertilized part, so I used fertilizer in 1935 and every year since. After attending local schools, Phyllis and Stewart went away to seek higher education. Phyllis became a dietician, married Larry Shanks and lived in the Montreal area. Stewart helped his dad some on the farm but got interested in Alberta's oil industry, and became a landman dealing in oil leases. I understand that he did very well in his business. He married Jean Smith of Edmonton.

"Some time after Monty was 75 years of age, he decided to retire to Devon. He had a modern house built on the banks of the North Saskatchewan River. They had a sale, moved to Devon and rented Sec. 8 to Jack Boere. Several years later Jack bought the north half. Montgomery's were our neighbours and friends



Close friends and neighbors, Ranfurly. Back row (l. to r.): Mary Sullivan, Fannie Sullivan, Phyllis Montgomery. Middle row (l. to r.): Minnie Pomrenk (with Stewart Montgomery in her arms), Muriel MacNaughton, Lexie MacNaughton. Front row: Marie Pomrenk, 1924.

for over half a century. I occasionally teased Mrs. Montgomery about the time she tried to beat a little learning into me. She replied something to the effect that the application of the ruler eventually paid off!

"When they celebrated their sixtieth wedding anniversary at Stewart and Jean's home in Edmonton, many friends and neighbors attended. Myrtle seemed very pleased when I presented her with a decorated apple 'For my Teacher.'

"July 13, 1974, Colin Greenlees Montgomery passed away in the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Edmonton in his 88th year. Two grandsons Colin James (Jim) Montgomery and Colin Laurence (Colin) Shanks, John Guglik, Jack Boere, and John Austin were among the eight pall-bearers. Reverend Hart Cantelon, a long-time friend of the family, conducted the funeral at Foster & McGarvey's Funeral Chapel with interment in the Evergreen Memorial Gardens."

To update the story of these pioneer Albertans-Myrtle still resides in Edmonton, clear of mind but requiring very extended care. The keen interest in the politics, business and education of the country is still there and the deep interest in old friends.

Stewart continues successfully in Alberta's oil industry. During the present year he is President of



Original Montgomery home built by C. G. Montgomery and to which Colin and Myrtle went as bride and groom in 1911.

the Alberta Chamber of Resources. Their son Dr. Jim and wife Jane (nee Robb), live in Edmonton where Jim is a member of the engineering faculty of the University of Alberta. Daughter Ellen and her husband, Dave Slaughter, live in Kingston, Ont. Daughter Cari is a junior high school student. Stewart and Jean have built a cottage in Vernon, B.C.

Phyllis and Larry Shanks have returned to the Devon home of the Montgomery's after careers in Montreal, Phyllis a teacher, Larry with the Bank of Nova Scotia. Our sons, David and Colin, are Alberta citizens; David an M.B.A. lives with his wife, and small sons Tristan and Ryan in St. Albert.

Colin, a draughtsman, and his wife live in Calgary.

I cannot end without emphasizing the second career which I enjoyed for twenty years in Montreal as a school music specialist and sharing with Larry the musical love so well founded and supported by Dad and Mother, for both Stewart and myself in our Ranfurly days and later. We, as a family, feel in this and other ways they must have done things right in raising a family, "Quoting my brother Stewart."

Moody, William and Harriet

by Peggy (Hayter) Tetreau

William and Harriet (Annie) Moody were married in 1898 in England and lived near Southampton for twelve years. By this time their four sons — Robert, William, Reginald and Ronald, were born. The couple's interest in Canada was aroused because Annie's sister and husband, Mary and Charles Hayter, and also her brother Charles Chiddell were living in Vegreville, Alberta. Canada was considered to be the "land of opportunity".

The trip to Canada was made in March, 1912, by boat, and the trip across Canada to Vegreville was made on a colonist train. While in Vegreville, Bill built a home next to Mary and Charles Hayter. He

worked first as a stationary steam engineer for the town, and then became second man in the town power plant.

In 1919 Bill decided to go to Bezanson (east of Grande Prairie), to look the land over. He discovered the flats along the Smoky River were appealing and available as homesteads, so filed on this land for himself and his wife. He returned to Vegreville for his wife and family, and all their worldly possessions were loaded into two boxcars. Included were a team of horses, a colt, and about eight to ten head of cattle. They moved on the E.D. and B.C. railroad to Grande Prairie and then by horse and wagon to the Smoky River.

Bill and Annie lived the rest of their lives on the banks of the Smoky River, a place fondly called "Moody's Crossing". Bill was ferryman over the Smoky for over 20 years, until the bridge was built.

William Sr. (Bill) and his wife Harriet (Annie) died six weeks apart in 1967.

Moore, Christie and Katie

Christie Moore, son of Enos and Martha Moore, was born in Missouri, U.S.A. on October 9, 1877 and passed away in 1950. He moved to Canada with his family in 1909 and farmed at Warwick, Alberta, for many years. He married Katie L. Chandler, who was born October 20, 1874. Katie died at Vegreville in the summer of 1956 and both Christie and Katie are interred in the Vegreville Riverside cemetery. Christie and Katie were married, May 16, 1898 at Middletown, Missouri.

Christie and Katie L. Moore had three daughters, Ada, Grace and Ora. Ada was born July 23, 1900 at Cando, N.D. and passed away December 17, 1964

and was interred in Alto-Reste Memorial Gardens cemetery in Red Deer.

Grace, born 1902 at Cando, North Dakota, married Nelson Ward and the family farmed at Sedge-wick for many years. They had five children: Ken of Ponoka; Donald of Burnaby, B.C.; Kay Lundin of Edmonton; Lorraine Hand of Peace River and Marilyn Pfeiffer of Cambridge, Ontario. Nelson passed away some years ago and Grace now lives in Calgary.

Ora Evans, nee Moore, was born at Cando, N. Dakota, on April, 1904, married Desmond Evans of Lloydminster who died Jan., 1979. Ora still lives on the family farm at Lloyd. They had three children, Edith Fietz of Ottawa; Grace Evans of Burnaby, B.C. and Alan and his family reside in Edmonton.

Ada, the eldest of the Moore family, came to Canada at the age of 9 years. She married Patrick Elmer Callahan. Pat was born at New Richmond,

Wisconsin on July 29, 1895 and passed away December 4, 1965. Pat and Ada farmed in the Lavoy district for many years and in their later years lived in Edmonton. Pat is buried beside Ada in Alto-Reste Gardens in Red Deer. They had four children, Marjorie, born May 2, 1922 who married Captain Larry Bourque, now retired and living at Prince Albert, Saskatchewan. They have four children, living in that area: Philippe, Michelle, Camille and Danielle.

Patrick Callahan, Jr., died while in high school and is buried in the Vegreville Riverside cemetery.

Robert, born May 23, 1925, married Margaret Moore of Lacombe, Alberta. They have three children, Marie of Edmonton who graduated as an artist, Lewis, who is attending Red Deer College and Dale in Junior High in Red Deer. Robert and Margaret owned the funeral homes in Red Deer and vicinity for over 17 years and are now retired. Robert is an Alderman serving the City of Red Deer at present.

Ora Mae, born August 13, 1926, married Jack Baker. They have no children and Ora resides in Red Deer.

More, Constable Peter James

Constable Peter James More, Reg. No. 3286, was born in Ontario in 1876 of a farming family at Pakenham. He entered the North West Mounted Police at Regina on May 1, 1898. For one year (Jan. 1900-Jan. 1901), More was granted leave to serve in South Africa with the 2nd Battalion, Canadian Mounted Rifles. On return, he resumed normal police duties. (Ed. It is at this date, we assume, that Constable More served in the Vegreville area).

Con. More discharged from NWMP in 1906 at the end of his term; his forwarding address was Lavoy. (Ed. John Austin notes that More left "The Force" to marry Sebe Williams; they lived in the Ranfurly area on a homestead west of Birch Hill School, where Pete served as Chairman of the Board from 1910-1912; he seemed unhappy and drank excessively).

More re-engaged in North West Mounted Police at Edmonton on August 17, 1914, giving his previous address as Vegreville and his previous occupation as "forest ranger". He was dismissed from the Force later that year. (Ed. Austin says that More then went overseas with the Canadian Army and died there in World War I.)

**Morrison, John Thomas
by Jean M. Yarrow**

FATHER	Born	Died
John Thomas Morrison	Dec. 11, 1867 Melville, Ont.	Oct. 15, 1936 Vegreville, Alta.

MOTHER: Mary Laura Little	June 4, 1880 Snell Grove, Ont. Ont., July 18, 1900	July 6, 1963
Married in Brampton, FAMILY: Hazel Belle Marguerite Pearl	Oct. 21, 1902 Nov. 26, 1903	July 22, 1979 May 1, 1918 Vegreville, Alta.
Jean Marie	Sept. 2, 1908 Vegreville, Alta.	
Edwin James	Oct. 9, 1910 Vegreville, Alta.	July 18, 1911
Caroline Brown Morrison (Half-sister)	March 10, 1898 Erin, Ont.	

Caroline came to Vegreville in 1912 after her grandmother died. She is still living in Ontario. Her mother died when she was born.

My Dad and Mother, and Hazel and Rita, came to Vegreville in 1907 from Englewood, Ontario. They stayed with my Dad's sister, Mrs. Archie Thompson, for a few months while my Dad built a shack at 5103-2nd Ave. West. They built a later addition to this which still stands.

My Dad filed on a homestead north of Vegreville but my Mother refused to go to live on a farm.

My brother and I were born in Vegreville with Dr. H. F. Monkman in attendance. Dr. Monkman went overseas in 1914-18. He was killed in action.

My Dad had the "Morrison Transfer and Storage" business in Vegreville. Many people came to town and wanted to store furniture and belongings until they got settled on their farms. He used the barn on the back of our lot, plus a shed on the property Dad had down the lane for storage. One family left a trunk and a big box when they went North. They never returned for them. Many people left their belongings while they stayed at the hotel looking for accommodation.

My mother was a remarkable woman. She was a dressmaker, tailoress and milliner. She graduated from a Trade School in Toronto. She attended Timothy Eaton's Bible Class while she was taking her courses.

My Mother loved to play comic roles in plays. The casts held numerous rehearsals at our house. One night she was on stage playing the part of a maid and she cut her hand quite badly on a tin vegetable cutter. She didn't panic, she just pretended it was part of the play and kept licking the blood off her hand until she could exit.

My Mother convened many bazaars for the church. She was always in charge of sewing and fancy work. I can remember many nights before the bazaar, she would stay up all night re-doing fancy work and sewing that the ladies had done. I asked her

why she didn't do it herself in the first place. She said she couldn't do that. Everyone needed to feel that they had contributed.

My Mother bought a Nordheimer piano from the Town of Vegreville when they needed the space above the Fire Hall for offices. I still have that piano. I was the only one in our family who was interested in music. I took lessons from Mrs. Clement and Mrs. E.

Morton. I was also in the United Church choirs (morning for Juniors).

In 1915 both the Presbyterian and Methodist ministers went to war as Chaplains. Mother was President of the Ladies Aid and called a meeting to decide what to do about the situation. My Mother suggested that the two Churches get together as one Church. They decided to do this and called it "The Union Church of Vegreville". They hired Rev. Hughes as minister.

The Presbyterian Church was then used as a school for Grades IV and V. I remember looking at our teacher's high-laced shoes and counting the eye-lets. She had her desk on the platform that had held the altar and the choir. I sat fairly close to the front of the school room and could continually look up to watch our teacher, Miss Ferguson.

In 1918 both my Mother and Dad had the flu. I was my Dad's "boy". I used to help with the horses and the cow and rode horseback so Dad bought me boy's overalls. My English friend, Joyce O'Dell, had a riding habit and rode side saddle. We had a barn and fenced acreage a few blocks from home. My sister Hazel was terrified of animals, especially cows. Dad and Mother were both so ill with flu that I decided I'd have to milk the cow. Hazel condescended to come with me and held the lantern. Everytime I went in the stall beside the cow with my milk stool the cow crowded me against the stall and I'd have to squeeze out. Finally I said, "Alright, if you want to be so contrary I'll try the other side." The cow stood still and let me try to milk her. My hands and fingers were not very strong and by the time I had a quart of milk I was exhausted. Our neighbor, Mr. Richardson, saw me coming out of the barn — discovered my plight and finished milking the cow. That night I had a chill — the flu. In my delirium I tried many times to go out "to milk the cow".

My Mother helped with the Girl Guides. They used to camp at "Sick Man Lake". I was too young to camp but my Mother took Barb Russell and me out one week-end. One Sunday morning before breakfast Hazel and Annie Waddell decided to take Barb and me for a ride in the flat-bottomed boat. We weren't very far from shore when a storm came up. Hazel and Annie were not able to control the boat and Annie lost her oar. We were swept out to the middle of

the lake. Fortunately there was an island fairly close. Hazel managed to get us close to the island with her one oar and the girls pulled the boat up. We were there all day until finally the wind went down. Fathers of the Guides were called and two came out in a motor boat and rescued us. We were very scared but truly thankful to be alive.

My Mother and Hazel bought a Model T Ford from Mr. MacLean when Hazel was teaching at Warwick. Hazel felt she just had to get to town for weekends. Mr. MacLean took them out several times for driving lessons. I went along but always sat in the back seat.

One day Hazel decided to take the car on her own. She took me along and she went toward Prairie Lodge Farm and then took a short cut on a prairie trail. It had rained the day before and she didn't see the stream of water until she was in the middle of it. The water had splashed up over the engine, so the car stalled and she couldn't start it. I had to take off my shoes and stockings, wade out and go for help. I walked to Charlie MacLeans grain elevator. He drove me back in his car and rescued Hazel. I was the official driver after that. A friend asked us who drove the car. I said, "We all do but I do all the steering".

I went to C.G.I.T. Camp at Birch Lake near Innisfree. One year my Mother was camp cook and Mrs. Schrag was her assistant. Girls came from Vermilion, Mannville and Lavoy as well as Vegreville. While we were breaking up camp and packing, Ralph and Andy Schrag and two other boys were helping pack the tents. We decided to have a "last" swim. Andy grabbed me by one foot and pulled me under water. I choked! They carried me out of the water and rolled me over a barrel to get the water out of my lungs. I have **never** lost my fear of water.

For many years the Vermilion River was our skating rink. I was allowed to go skating on Saturday but never on Sunday. My Dad was sure something dreadful would happen to me if I skated on Sunday.

My Dad helped build a lot of houses in Vegreville. He worked with Tom Leask, Dick Rennie and Tommy Cannon.

I was a pre-schooler (three years old) when my Mother was very ill in hospital so Dad took me to work with him. The men let me hammer nails in boards and even use one of their small saws. They used to maneuver my position so I could not see my Dad. They liked the way I said, "Where is my little fat old faather?" They teased me about my accent for years.

Our town policeman was a great friend of mine and I used to accompany Bill Rodgers on his rounds. He showed me the jail in the town hall and told me many stories about people he had arrested. He had to

look after the town sidewalks and even let me try to hammer spikes in the loose sidewalk boards.

I remember my Grade I teacher, Miss Strong. She was a “darling”. She was quite strict but always fair.

My Grade II teacher was Wilhelmina Bremner. She got married in the middle of the term and her sister, Mrs. Adams, substituted for her.

Our former Grade III teacher, Miss Bremner came back as Mrs. W. Tierney. We were very happy.

Grade IV and V — Miss Ferguson

Grade VI and VII — Miss Wright. We were taught across the track in a building that had been “The English School for Foreigners” which was taught by Mr. Stickle.

Grade VIII and IX. — Miss Wright was my teacher. Miss Mabel Poole taught me in Grade X.

Grade XI and XII — we had many teachers: Mr. Heywood, Miss Dillard, Miss Mabel Poole, Mr. Glover, Miss Shaver, Miss Roscoe, Mr. Hayhurst and Miss Garrison.

The Undertaker’s Helpers

by Jean Yarrow

“Let’s go to the parlor to help Rena,” Nita said. I was rather hesitant. This invitation meant the funeral parlor. Nita and Rena, a hairdresser, were the daughters of our town’s undertaker. Nita had asked my mother if she could take me uptown for a treat. My mother was so busy making finery for an approaching big wedding that she readily consented without questions about our destination.

Nita rang the bell at the parlor and soon Rena answered the door. “Come on in. You are just in time to help fix poor Mrs. Smith’s hair. I’ve just washed it. She’s in the back room ready for a curl”. I had been here before but only in the front office and reception area.

“Come on,” said Nita. “This is a super job. The lady doesn’t make a sound even if you pull her hair a little.” I was really scared but with Nita’s assurance I carefully tip-toed after her to the back room.

Rena was curling Mrs. Smith’s hair with curling tongs. She had a lamp with a glass chimney and one pair of tongs were hung in the lamp over a low flame, while she used the other pair. She alternated them so she always had warm tongs. She’d moisten her finger and lightly touch the tongs to see if they were the right temperature. She didn’t want to singe Mrs. Smith’s hair.

Nita started putting pin curls in the fine white hair near Mrs. Smith’s face. She’d twist strands of hair around her finger and then push it off in a flat curl. She inserted small hairpins at right angles to each other to hold the curl firmly. “Come on! Just try one curl! This is such fun,” she said.

I was about nine years old. This was the first dead person I’d ever seen and no amount of coaxing or persuasion could get me any closer to Mrs. Smith.

I must say that Mrs. Smith looked beautiful and appeared to be peacefully sleeping when Rena completed the job with a touch of rouge. But I felt much safer and was only able to relax when Nita and I headed for our ice cream treat at the Bakery.

A week later Nita and I were busy cleaning and polishing the hearse for the military funeral of Major Frank W. W. Fane who died in 1922. The Fanes lived across the road from us in Vegreville from 1911 to 1917. His funeral was from Beaver Lake where he had farmed. There were four coal oil lamps, two at the back and two at the front that needed filling, cleaning and wicks trimmed. Nita crawled in the hearse and cleaned the inside of the large oval plate glass windows while I stood safely on the ground outside and polished them. Nita’s dad touched up the black paint. All was immaculate.

My dad worked as an assistant to Mr. Hepburn, the undertaker. He was a great horseman and was particularly proud of the beautiful, well-groomed black team that he drove on the hearse. The team was draped in black net with black tassels hanging all around the bottom and a tassel from each ear. My dad and the undertaker were dressed in black swallowtailed suits, high black top hats and white gloves. They sat on high seats at the front of the hearse. The six military pallbearers in full regalia, were lined up three on each side. We could see the flag-draped coffin through our well-polished windows.

How proud I was of my Dad as he drove off leading such an awesome procession.

Morton, Helen (Mrs. E. E.)

Courtesy of Alberta Women’s Institute

Mrs. E. E. Morton was born Helen Forrest in St. John, New Brunswick, on November 29, 1884. Her people were of Scottish descent. She received her high school and college education in Winnipeg. Later she taught school in Winnipeg and then in Vegreville. It was here she met Edmund E. Morton and they were married in 1910 and together they homesteaded fifty miles from Vegreville. They had two sons.

In 1929, the family moved to Vegreville where Mrs. Morton served many years as a school trustee and was active in Red Cross and Navy League work and in other public activities of her community.

Women’s Institute work was always a joy and inspiration to her and she held offices in her local branch, was district director for District No. 2, four years. For the next four years she served as provincial vice-president and convenor of war services, giving



Mrs. E. E. Morton. About 1950.

of her talents and time unstintingly. During these onerous times, she also took on the duties of the first war-work convenor for the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada and later was elected second vice-president of that organization. In 1945 she was elected A.W.I. Provincial President. In 1947, in addition to being chief executive of the A.W.I. for the second term, she became first vice-president of the F.W.I.C. She served one term as president of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada, and was vice-president of the Associated Country Women of the World for three years and she attended three world conferences of the A.C.W.W. — one in Holland, one in Denmark, and one in Toronto.

Besides her work in the W.I. she found time to act as vice-president of the Alberta Library Association, a member of the Library Board and as director of the Canadian Cancer Society.

In 1953, Mrs. Morton was presented with a life membership in the A.W.I. and was a recipient of a Coronation Medal the same year. She was interested in basic English and started many women in other lands working on English classes.

Mrs. Morton was a most enthusiastic organizer, and had a happy knack of inspiring women and making them want to follow her, always full of ideas and enthusiasm and keenly interested in the future of the Women's Institute. One of her cherished ideas was a "Canadian Mosaic", from which originated

the F.W.I.C. Centennial Publication "A Heritage of Canadian Handicrafts".

During the two years previous to her passing on October 17, 1954, Mrs. Morton suffered the loss of her eyesight and received assistance from the Canadian National Institute for the Blind. Mrs. Morton was a wise counsellor, a loving friend to many, and her memory will long be revered by all who knew her. Truly the minister at the funeral service expressed the thought of all — "She hath done what she could".

Moshansky, Virgil P.

The Honourable Mr. Justice Virgil P. Moshansky, Calgary, Alberta.

Background Data:

— Born at Lamont, Alberta on September 14, 1928.



Virgil and June Moshansky and children. (l. to r.): Karen, Lynn, Marla, and Blair, 1970.



Virgil Moshansky (on left) at International Board Meeting of Lions International in London, England, in 1967. Mr. Moshansky represented Canada on 29 member Boards of Directors of the worldwide organization, involving 150 countries.

- His grandparents were among the earliest Ukrainian pioneers to come to Canada in the 1890's. His parents were Alberta-born and his father, the late Peter Moshansky, a farmer, automobile and farm machinery dealer and businessman, was active in community affairs and served for 20 years as a member of Council and as Reeve of the Municipal District of Lamont and also as Chairman of the Lamont School Division. His family still owns the original farm lands settled by his grandparents in the Star-Edna District of Alberta.
- Married, he and his wife June have 4 children and are active members of the Ukrainian Catholic Church.

Education

- (a) **High School Record**
 - Graduated with honours from Lamont High School.
 - Was Member of No. 257 Squadron RCAF Cadets for 4 years and rose to highest attainable cadet rank.
 - Captain of RCAF Cadets Rifle Team that won Dominion of Canada Rifle Association Championship for several years.
 - Captain of Western Canada Champion Fastball Team.
 - Winner of numerous track and field awards.
- (b) **University**
 - Graduate, University of Alberta. B.A. degree in Political Economy, 1951. LL.B. degree in Law, 1954.
 - Elected Law Class Representative at University of Alberta.
 - Elected to Honorary Golden Key Society, U. of A.
 - Received University Gold "A" Award
 - Member of and on Executive of Kappa Sigma Fraternity
 - Served for 5 years on staff of University newspaper "Gateway" and University Yearbook as Director of Photography
 - Member Law Club, History Club, University Liberal Club, Mock Parliament, In-

ter-Fraternity Council.

Legal Career

- Articled to Mr. W. O. Parlee, Q.C. of the firm of Smith, Clement, Parlee & Whittaker of Edmonton, Alberta and admitted to the bar on the 31st day of May, 1955.
- Practised at the Town of Vegreville, Alberta since June, 1955.
- Senior Partner of a 4-member law firm at

Vegreville, Alberta engaged in a general legal practice.

- Primarily engaged in litigation, both in the Civil and Criminal fields of law, throughout professional career.



Mayor Moshansky, meeting with then Minister of Justice, Otto Lang, after tour of new Vegreville town hall for the construction of which substantial federal government funds were obtained, 1972.

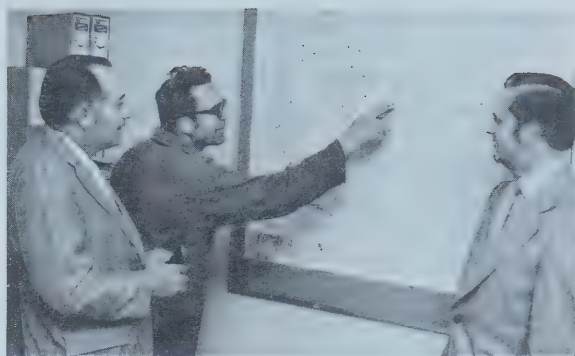


Virgil Moshansky shown after taking oath of office as International Director of Lions International in New York in June of 1966. Lions International President Edward M. Lindsey of Lawrenceburg, Tennessee, on the right.

- Appeared as Counsel in every level of Court in Canada, both trial and appellate.
- Member, Lawyer-Pilots Bar Association (North America).
- Vice-Chairman, Vegreville Legal Aid Committee
- Agent and Counsel to the Attorney General for Alberta.
- Served 17 years as Secretary of the Vegreville and District Bar Association.
- Member of Alberta and National Council, Canadian Bar Association (1964-1976).
- Member of Continuing Legal Education Society for Alberta (1975-1976).
- A Bencher of the Law Society of Alberta (1975-76).
- Appointed Queen's Counsel (1976).
- Appointed as a Justice of the Supreme Court of Alberta, Trial Division, May 28, 1976. Took up residence in Calgary in July, 1976.

Record As A Citizen:

- Mayor, Town of Vegreville (1970-1976).
- As Mayor led Vegreville into the largest construction boom in its 70-year history.
- Gained for Vegreville in 1972 a striking new civic complex valued at over one million dollars and in 1975 a one-million-dollar municipal airport, a major portion of the cost having been funded by senior government grants pursued by him.
- Chairman — Vegreville Industrial Development Committee.
- Chairman — Vegreville Airport Development Committee.
- Vice-Chairman — Vegreville Legal Aid Committee.
- Chairman — Long Range Planning Committee, Town of Vegreville.
- Member — Alberta Aviation Council.
- Member — Resolutions Committee, Alberta Urban Municipalities Association (1974-1976).
- Director, and Member Executive committee — A.U.M.A. (1975-76).
- Member — Executive Committee for Vegreville RCMP Centenary Celebration (Vegreville Pysanka) (1974-1975).
- Director — St. Joseph's General Hospital Board (1968-1970).
- Member — Building Committee for Vegreville Recreation Centre (1959-1960).
- Member — Building Committee for Vegreville School for Retarded Children (1960-1962).
- Chairman — Building Committee, Vegreville Civic Complex (1971-1973).
- Served on Vegreville Little League Baseball Commission.



As mayor, Virgil Moshansky is conducting the Minister of Agriculture Bud Olson (left) on tour of Ezee-on Manufacturing in 1972. Mr. John Yakimetz (co-partner) is pointing out dealer locations in the U.S.A.



*The Lord Chamberlain is
commanded by Her Majesty to invite*

*Mrs and Mrs Virgil P. Moshansky
to an Afternoon Party in the Garden of Buckingham Palace
on Friday, the 13th July 1962, from 4 to 6 o'clock p.m.
(Weather Permitting)*

Morning Dress or Uniform or Lounge Suit

Virgil Moshansky's appointment to Queen's party, July 13, 1962.

- Active in Red Cross, Heart Fund, Canadian Institute for Blind and Cancer Fund Campaigns.
- A licensed pilot and aircraft owner, he was a member and Director of the Vegreville Flying Club.
- Member Edmonton Flying Club.
- Member Canadian Owners & Pilots Association.
- Member Alberta Aviation Council.
- Member International Platform Association.
- Active in promotion of the Annual Vegreville Ukrainian Festival.
- Awarded the Canada Centennial Medal by the Secretary of State, Government of Canada (1967).
- Member of John Howard Prisoner Rehabilitation Society.
- Member Alberta Fish and Game Association.
- Past Member Vegreville Minor Hockey Association.
- Member Vegreville Chamber of Commerce.

Record as a Service Club Leader:

- 21 years a member of the Vegreville Lions Club with 21 years perfect attendance. Awarded Life Membership in 1976 by International Board of Directors.
- Served as Secretary and as President of his Club, and as Zone Chairman and District Governor of his District.
- Holder of numerous Awards and Honours including:
 - 100% Presidents Award
 - 100% Zone Chairman Award
 - 100% District Governor Award
 - Master Key Award.
- Elected Chairman, Council of Governors, Multiple District 37 (1962-1963) (Montana, Alberta and B.C.) and to Executive of the Pacific Northwest Lions Commission.
- Served as District Membership Chairman, Extension Chairman and District Care Chairman and organized national campaigns which raised over 100,000 pairs of new and used eyeglasses for needy of India and the purchase of a mobile eye hospital unit for world famous eye surgeon Dr. M. C. Modi of India.
- Made Honorary Member 26 Lions Clubs of Osaka, Japan, during visit to Japan.
- Instructor at District 37 Leadership Training Schools.
- Elected International Director of Lions International, the world's largest service club organization with 1,000,000 members in 150 countries, at New York International Convention (1966), representing Canada on 28-member World Board.
- Made Honorary citizen of state of Tennessee by Governor of that state.
- As International Director (1966-1967), served on International Relations Committee; Long Range Planning Committee; Redistricting Committee and Lions Information Committee.
- Served as General Chairman, Club and District Administration Forum at Lions International Convention, Chicago (1967).
- Parliamentarian Lions International Convention, Chicago (1967).
- Represented Lions International at numerous international functions including dedication ceremonies for "Friendship" Arch at Huntington — Sumas International Border Crossing (1967) and at European Forums in London, England and Stockholm, Sweden (1968).
- As International Director (1967-1968), served on the following committees:
 - (a) Finance Committee.
 - (b) Chairman, Public Relations Committee.

(c) Headquarters Operations Committee in charge of 500 employees at world headquarters in Chicago.

(d) General Committee for World Youth Congress at Dallas, Texas (1968) Convention.

(e) Chairman, Committee for Publications and Publicity, World Youth Congress (1968).

(f) Long Range Planning Committee.

- Was prominently involved in discussions and negotiations leading to major changes in the Constitution and By-Laws of Lions International, approved at Dallas Convention (1968).
- Holds five (5) International Presidents Awards.
- Holds "Ambassador of Goodwill" Award, one of only 12 awarded among 1,000,000 Lions Members.
- In 1970, he was unanimously endorsed by his Multiple District as a candidate for the high office of International Vice-President of Lions International, only narrowly missing election at the International Convention in Atlantic City, N.J.
- He and his wife June, have travelled extensively on speaking engagements on behalf of Lions International (over 250,000 miles) in Japan, Europe, Scandinavia, the British Isles, the Caribbean, Mexico and throughout Canada and the United States of America. He has addressed thousands of people in many Countries of the world.

Record in Political Affairs:

- A lifelong member of the Liberal Party, as were his father and grandfather.
- Served as Vice-President of Alberta Young Liberals Association.
- Served several terms on the executive of the Liberal Party of Alberta, as Regional Vice-President.
- Served 18 years as President of Vegreville Provincial Constituency Liberal Association.
- Served on Executive of Vegreville Federal Constituency Liberal Association for 20 years.
- Served as Campaign Manager for Liberal candidates in three Federal and Provincial elections.
- Involved in campaigns of all Federal and Provincial Liberal candidates in Vegreville Constituency since 1946, including the campaigns of now Chief Judge John Decore, Dr. A. E. Archer, Fred Magera, Dr. N. J. Kuzyk, Ralph Steinhauer, Jules Van Brabant, Ron Harris and Wilfred Horton.
- Was Liberal Party Candidate for the Vegreville Federal Constituency in the 1974 Federal election.
- Served on Federal Liberal Caucus for Alberta (1974-1975).

- Served as member of the Red Carnation Fund Committee.
- Delegate to the Western Policy Conference in Vancouver.
- Delegate to almost all Provincial Liberal Conventions since 1950.
- Delegate to the National Leadership Convention in 1968 and to all subsequent National Conventions at Ottawa.
- Served as Co-Chairman of the Agriculture-Fisheries Ministerial Forum at the 1975 National Convention.

Mullins, Wayne

by Wayne Mullins

In the fall of 1950 and the entire 1951 spring, summer and fall I had the pleasure of living in Doc Hosking's home in Vegreville and playing for the Vegreville Lions Juvenile Baseball team (catcher).

In 1951 we only lost two games all year and won the Provincial Juvenile Championship against Magrath in Southern Alberta. We played in a league against Fort Saskatchewan and four (or six, I'm not sure) Edmonton teams. We won all our league games and had probably the finest juvenile baseball team ever to play in Alberta. Your present Mayor Larry Ruptash was on the team, as were Ed Kassian, Tommy Eluik (from Hairy Hill), Marshall Shandro and Pete Serbu (from Willingdon), Joe Weremy, Buzz Charuk, Ed Kassian, Harry Stewart, Ed Misik, Ed Stefura, and several others.

For our Sunday home game, double headers, fans came from all over the district. The players represented the whole district around Vegreville and I was the only Edmonton player on the team.

Harry Krewusik was the manager while Doc Hosking was the coach. I don't know if Wuffy Horton is still in Vegreville but he was with the newspaper in those days and covered the team. I would really think that any book on Vegreville would be very incomplete without coverage on this team and the very proud days of a town having the finest ball team in the Province. It was always a pleasure to have an Edmonton team come out to Vegreville for two games on a Sunday and beat them both games.

If you talk to some of the Vegreville baseball fans who remember those days I think you'll see that they were very good times for Vegreville. They were certainly my own personal happiest days to remember.

Since my own ethnic background is Irish-American and Vegreville's is predominantly Ukrainian and German, I must say that I found the hospitality and friendship in your town "just like home."

I have always had fond memories of the people of

Vegreville and area and I wish you well with your book.

Muntz, Wm. and Jane

by Elizabeth Ford

William and Jane Muntz came to Edmonton from Cass City, Michigan, in 1901 and in the spring of 1902, Wm. Muntz homesteaded on S.E. quarter of section 4-51-14 and moved his wife and family of six children, Walter, Nelson, Eva, Perle, Orval and Luella there.

In 1903 Wm. Muntz, Frank Websdale and Harry Timbers built the Imperial School on the S.E. corner of section 3 which is still Imperial school site, the present school being Imperial Community Centre. The lumber for the first school was hauled from across the Saskatchewan River with horses by the Muntz and Timber boys.

In 1908 Frances Welbanks came from Ontario to Alberta and attended Normal School in Calgary and obtained a position as teacher at Imperial School. Jane Muntz curtained off a bedroom and boarded the school "marm."

They had quite a time making a living. No calorie counting in those days. One year they had a particularly good crop of turnips, so they lived on turnips with a pot of boiled wheat occasionally to vary the meals, with some wild berries too. Flour and groceries had to be obtained from Edmonton before Vegreville existed.

Nelson married Frances in 1911 and lived in Vegreville, where Nelson drayed and helped dig basements, hauled ice and freighted with Uncle John Wright. Then they moved to the N.E. quarter of section 3-51-14 where they farmed and raised four children. Elizabeth (Mrs. Harvey Ford of Lavoie), Charles on a farm south of Vegreville, Margaret (Mrs. Conrad Yost of Vegreville), and George of Vegreville. Nelson and Frances both died in 1961. Wm. Muntz moved to Evansburg in 1920 where Eva and Luella still live.

Muzyka, Fred and Maria

by daughters Gloria McIntosh and Nadia Snyder

Our father, Fred (Theodor) Muzyka, was born 1899 in the village of Czabariwka, near the town of Husiatyn in western Ukraine. He attended gymnasium (high school) in Husiatyn and Kopyczyn until the outbreak of World War I. At this time his father was conscripted into the army and Fred was left to look after the family and the farm.

Later, in 1917, he too was conscripted and then served in the Communications Division in the Ukrainian Army for over a year.

On returning to his village, he and Maria



House in Ukraine where Fred Muzyka was born. In 1926 it had a tin roof; in 1959 a straw one.

Styranka, a former classmate, were married June 6, 1920, in Czabariwka and opened their first store and began their family.

By 1926, because of political and economic unrest, Dad and Mr. Oscar Tunis chose to look to Canada for a more gratifying life for their families.

His wife and two young children remained behind until he was certain things would not be too difficult for them.

When Dad arrived in Canada, he tried working on an extra gang with a railroad crew outside of Portage la Prairie, Manitoba. He was not used to the manual labour, and, after a month, decided to head for Toronto.

There he found a job in a foundry, but the work was not any easier. Through contact with Oscar Tunis, a friend from his native village, he headed west to Lamont, Alta. There he bought a small store in 1928 and then brought his family to Canada.

In 1930 they moved to Vegreville, where, with Mr. Peter Dalawrak, Dad went into business and carried on his hobby of watch-repairing, a hobby that he picked up in schooldays in Kopyczynski, working after hours at the jewelry shop.

By 1939 Dad and Oscar Tunis became partners in the Muzyka & Tunis Department Store (where the Prince Edward Hotel is today). They later moved into their own building where they remained until their retirement in 1970. Dad has always been active in Vegreville. He was an elder in the Ukrainian Orthodox Church for many years and president for five. He served on the town council for twenty years, is an active Chamber of Commerce member, and an Elk. Also, Dad and Mother are members of the St. John Institute in Edmonton, St. Andrew's College in Winnipeg and Shevchenko and S.U.S. Foundations of Canada.

In 1948 Dad brought his sister and family to Canada from Europe.



Mr. and Mrs. Fred Muzyka, 1922.

Mother is well-known in Vegreville for the quality of her handwork, weaving, leathercraft and embroidery. With encouragement from Hanka Romanchych, she joined the Women's Institute and after taking weaving courses in Banff school, she taught the craft to others. Mrs. Ernie Morton, another W.I. member, helped Mother with the fine points of English spelling and grammar.

Mother also belonged to the Women's Organizations of the Church and did her share of baking for bazaars and teas. She enjoyed curling and she and Belle Kashman were a colorful pair in their curling clothes; they even entered bonspiels in Edmonton.

Our friends were always welcome in our house and we were fortunate to have teachers who were friends as well. During the war years, with Daphne Garrison's help, a lot of candy was made and sent to boys who had gone overseas. Jim Horton and John Hurlburt were neighbors and classmates who did not return.

In 1966 our parents revisited their birthplace and visited many other points of interest in Europe, USSR, Austria, Germany and others.

In 1970 they celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary by going to Expo in Tokyo, Japan, Formosa and Hong Kong.

There were difficult times, setbacks and illness, but our family has prospered and been very happy in Canada. Once the functional necessities were looked after, mother's embroidered pictures and tapestries provided us with our own unique art collection. Some of this artistic work now has found a place in Ukrainian Museums in Saskatoon and Winnipeg. Other pieces are proudly displayed in both daughters' homes and grandchildren's homes and offices.

Gloria, Mrs. Homer McIntosh, left Vegreville for further schooling, and has lived in Ottawa for many years.

Nadia, Mrs. Herb Snyder, lives in Wainwright, Alberta.

Gloria and Nadia each have one son and one daughter and the Snyder children have each produced a great-granddaughter for BABA and DIDO.



Town council meeting, 1960. At table (l. to r.) — Joe Fedechko, John Koshuta, Fred Muzyka, Bill Morton mayor, (hidden) Red Cantrill — sec. treas., Alex Gordey, Mike Craddock, Wallace Wade.



First home of Andrew and Parania Svarich — 1912, in which, by progressive additions, they raised their nine children. It was sold and remodelled in 1965.

Home Sweet Home



Home of James Richardson in Vegreville, on Town Hall Avenue, (Highway 16), 1917.



Hulett's home on the farm, 1962.



Prairie Lodge Home, 1 mile north of Vegreville, 1920.



The Ed. Eickmeyer home near Vegreville, built in 1927.



Built in 1903 by John and Maria Kolmatycki, on SW 10-52-16-W4.



The Thomas Selph home, 1914-23.

Mylrea, Edward

Edward Eastwell Mylrea was born in London, England, on April 20, 1883; with his family he moved to Canada in 1909. As a young man on his own, he arrived in Vegreville in 1910 where his first job was looking after the CN water tank; later he worked in the freight shed (west of present CN station). Ed was a member of Vegreville's volunteer Fire Brigade, but his favorite hobby was music. He had an excellent voice and sang in a quartet with Rev. Stone, Harvey Young, and George Nichols. Ed boarded in the rooming house of Mrs. Campbell who had some lively young daughters, but Ed's amorous interest was centered elsewhere. On fine evenings he would



Ed. Mylrea and his wife-to-be Margaret Brinton at the latter's farm, Vegreville, 1913.

“borrow” the CNR handcar and pump his way three miles east where he courted the farmer's attractive daughter — Margaret Brinton. Ed and Margaret were married in Vegreville, January 18, 1916, and then started by rail to honeymoon in Victoria; but due to a snowslide they were stranded eight days and nights along the Fraser canyon, until an Indian guide took the CN passengers across the river to catch the CPR. In 1921, Mylrea's moved to Mountain View, California, where his parents had located, taking with them their three children: Peggy (now Mrs. Alec Matthews, Mountain View); Edward (Santa Clara); and Lorena (now Mrs. Lawrence Anderson, Aptos). Margaret's parents, Caleb and Lorena Brinton, and her brothers Robert and Wilson, also moved to California about 1924. Ed Mylrea died in 1948, but Margaret still lives a full life near her daughters, keeping active in Eastern Star. Her 90th birthday, August, 1977, was celebrated with a great gathering of American and Canadian relatives. One of Margaret's favorite memories was of early days in Vegreville when she, an expert horsewoman, rode her “Jane” to round up cattle on the range. On a return visit to Vegreville in the summer of 1956, Margaret, mounted on Durie's beautiful Palomino, led the local Exhibition parade by the side of her brother Charlie.

MacDonald, Angus (1877-1960)

It was in the late 1800's that Alex and Mary MacDonald, the parents of Angus MacDonald, immigrated to Canada and settled in Summerside, Prince Edward Island. Very soon after that, in 1877, Angus was born, a brother for Christine (the late Mrs. John Sullivan). Unfortunately, in 1879, Alex MacDonald died, forcing Angus into the work world as soon as he was able to go.

Yet the spirit of adventure was in him, and when an uncle and his family were coming West in 1898, Angus and his mother joined them. He first worked in Entwistle, a thriving logging center west of Edmonton, as a lumber foreman. But at the age of 19, the farming instinct took hold of him, and he set out to homestead in Ranfurly, just east of Edmonton. This was no easy undertaking at the time as the railway was not open yet. All the lumber and supplies for his home were transported by horse and wagon from Edmonton, a distance of 100 miles. The task took many trips and much time.

In 1917, Angus married Mary McCutcheon, a resident of Lavoy some 8 miles away from Ranfurly. Mary had come to Lavoy with her rancher father,



Angus and Mary MacDonald and children Isabella, Janet and Mary, 1921.



Angus MacDonald when he was 21 years old, 1899.



Mary (McCutcheon) MacDonald, when she was 19 years old, 1906.

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\$3.69 for five gallons of cream - refused to cash meagre cheque. 1926

\$3.69 for five gallons of cream — refused to cash meagre cheque, 1926.

William McCutcheon in 1905. William was a well-known horse and cattle breeder, renowned for his Clydesdale horses and Shorthorn cattle which were sold across Canada.

During the course of their marriage, Angus and Mary were blessed with three daughters, Janet, Mary (Birdie), and Isabella (Tibby), obviously beautiful girls as Janet even won a beautiful baby contest at the 1918 fair in Viking. Besides her girls and the day-to-day running of the farm, mother Mary gardened and hand-crafted knit articles, rugs, and clothing.

As the years went by, the girls grew up. Janet married and moved to Jasper; Mary followed suit but moved out of the province to Port Credit in southern Ontario; Isabella became a prominent nurse and married, worked and resided in Vegreville. Angus and Mary MacDonald soon became proud grandparents many times over.

Angus passed away in 1960, a Presbyterian and staunch Conservative to the end. Isabella died the following year, followed by Janet in 1963. Mary MacDonald passed away in the spring of 1972.

Composed by: Irene Mary Thomson Carroll —
Daughter of Mary (Birdie) and Alex Thompson,
and Granddaughter of Angus and Mary MacDonald

McAreavy, William Henry by Lawrence McAreavy

My father and two of his brothers, Frank and Tommie, and two neighbour chums, Mike McCusker and Chas Richardson, left Ryan and Coggan, Iowa, U.S.A. with two carloads of settlers' effects of machinery and horses and headed for Canada upon hearing of 160 acres of homestead land for \$10.00 up there. They were all in the 20-30 years of age range.

They crossed the line at Emerson, Manitoba to Winnipeg and transferred to the C.P.R. on to Calgary, and north to Strathcona, landing there in the spring of 1902.

They were advised by officials at the land titles office that there was good farming land east about 60 miles around a French settlement later to be called "Old Vegreville", a few miles south of the present Vegreville. The trip from Strathcona to Old Vegreville often took a week to make by horse and oxen. Several overnight stops were made at halfway houses enroute. Due to prairie trails and frequent rains, dodging sloughs and mosquitoes, the trip must have been quite trying.

Dad picked out a quarter five miles east on the present Highway 16 of the present Vegreville, SE



Wedding day, November 13, 1906, of William McAreavy and Anna Hartman. Front: Attendants were the twins Miss Ryans, and Tom McAreavy, left, and August Hartman, right. Taken from the photo made by A. T. Bridgeman, Vegreville.



A popular mode of travel in depression years: the "Bennett Buggy". (L. to r.) — Joe, Teresa, Henry, and Beatrice McAreavy, about 1932.

¼-14-52-14 W4th, while the rest picked their quarters northeast of his place around later to be Highlow School (1904). All of these choice quarters required a trip back to Strathcona to file on same.

Dad built a log house and other log buildings on his homestead and proved up on his place in 1905. The Canadian Northern Railway came through his homestead, missing his buildings by 300 yards in 1904, arriving in Vegreville in 1905.

Then the great rush began of moving buildings and equipment from Old Vegreville to its present site. His brothers and chums sold out their homesteads after proving up on them and returned to Iowa. They thought the country would never amount to any great lot, in comparison to the hardships that were encountered.

November 13, 1906 in Vegreville, Dad married Anna Hartman, the eldest daughter of another pioneer family from Ontario (1900), that had settled just half-mile east of his place.

There were 9 children in our family. They were as follows:

Lawrence A. of Calgary; Mrs. H. C. Walker (Nellie) of Rimbey; Leo W. of Sicamous, British Columbia; Chas. H. died at age six months of pneumonia, May 7, 1915; Mrs. C. Brattland (Beatrice) of Edmonton; Henry J. of Morningside, Alberta; Mrs. M. Davis (Theresa) of Courtenay, Vancouver Island, British Columbia; Joseph R. of Calgary; and Mrs. L. Ryan (Marylyn) of Edmonton.

Those early days of homesteading came with a great deal of hardship, long cold winters, early frosts, rainy summers, hordes of mosquitoes, and the always prevalent prairie fires. The worst occurred in September, 1909. It started from the Grand Trunk Pacific in the vicinity of Ryley, Holden area, either from sparks from engines or from burning ties, and spread northward for about a week with steady south and south-east winds that died during the night, only to continue the next day. It covered a very large area,



Lawrence McAreavy (on engine) with his steam outfit, harvesting at Brinton's in 1936; Charlie on separator.



Blessing of the church bell donated to St. Martin's by August Hartman who is seen here with some of his children and the clergy, 1907.

as in those early days there wasn't much prairie broken up, resulting in great stretches of dry prairie wool in the spring and fall, which was ideal for prairie fires. This particular fire finally reached the C.N.R. and, hampered also by numerous large sloughs, finally burnt itself out. It caused a great deal of damage to settlers that were beginning to establish themselves. It also took the life of Adam Gienger's 13-year-old daughter who went out to bring drinking water to the fire fighters and became lost in the smoke and heat.

Dad experienced only one 100% hail storm in July, 1947, that completely destroyed the whole crop in all of 50 years' farming. Although he had several frost-damaged years, he never had a complete loss.

Dad farmed up to 1950, then rented the farm out and the folks moved to a seven-acre acreage outside of Rimbey and lived there until he passed away in July of 1958 at 84 years of age. He was buried at the Lacombe Cemetery.

Mother moved to Edmonton in 1960 and managed her own house up until lately. She celebrated her 90th birthday last June 3, 1979. She is presently in the St. Joseph's Nursing Home on Whyte Avenue, Edmonton.

McCarty, Frank and Margaurette by granddaughter, Marg Palm

"Go West, Young Man, Go West" was the motto of the day. The chance to acquire land of their own was the dream of every young couple heading West. Frank, Margaurette and daughter Eileen (six months old) came to Vegreville in April, 1913 via C.N.

Railway from New Richmond, Wisconsin, U.S.A. With them they brought two carloads of settlers' effects which included a team of horses, a cow and calf, machinery and household effects. They settled in the Spring Creek School District, fourteen miles north of Vegreville on the former Ernie Emery homestead living with Margaurette's parents, Louis and Eliza Oligny. In 1914 the Frank McCarty family moved to the Norma School District to the former George Tillapaugh homestead quarter. They farmed this land until March, 1920. The family now consisted of Eileen, John, and Josephine. During these years, travel to Vegreville was done by horses and buggy for groceries, church and medical needs. Margaurette hauled the grain to Vegreville with the team, Dan and Dick, to the Pool elevator run by Jack Davis. She would then return home with a load of lumber to be used for building up the farmstead. The closest neighbors were Frank Emery, Ole and Nels Flaatan, and John Tillapaughs. The closest telephone was two miles away at the Frank Emery home. The grocery trip to town was necessary when "Pa" ran out of pipe tobacco. Number one butter was purchased from Mrs. Emery for 15¢ a pound. Margaurette hauled eggs to Vegreville and sold them for 18¢ a dozen. The yearly supply of flour was ground from wheat hauled from the farm to Vegreville. This was stored in the attic and used as needed. The McCarty home was a half-way house between the North Saskatchewan River and Vegreville. Settlers on their way to Vegreville to sell their grain and hogs stopped over to feed their hogs and bed down for the night. When Margaurette would get down to her last two loaves of bread, she started baking, ready for the next lot of visitors.

To supplement the family food supply, Margaurette would take the "22" and shoot prairie chickens and rabbits while Frank cut the wood supply beside the creek.

In 1920, the farm was sold to the Soldier Settlement Board. Frank purchased four hundred acres



Feeding the horses in the Market Square, Vegreville, before 1918.

from Oscar Johnson, five miles south-east of Vegreville. This is still known as the McCarty farm. The family moved in March, 1920. Eileen, now past eight years old, was enrolled in Ridgemark School at Easter-time. Ada Callahan was her first teacher. The school trek by horse and buggy was to carry on many years from the McCarty home.

The early years were filled with hard work and trying times while Frank worked at breaking the land. Frank had a hired man named Clifford. The two had been discussing the neighbourhood talk that perhaps this field had some old Indian graves situated in it. The young helper was slightly spooked. All of a sudden, a bolt snapped on the plow. Needless to say, Clifford nearly passed out!

The first crop on the McCarty farm was threshed by Will McGowan and his threshing rig. They brought their own cook car and sleeping quarters. The job was done in record time. Four teams were used for hauling grain.

The following year, Frank McCarty purchased his own threshing outfit — a McCormick-Deering tractor and a Goodison separator. The crew consisted of six bundle teams and often spike pitchers. Help was hard to get, so often the extras were men hired from those who came West for harvest from French Canada. Too often they didn't know one end of the horse from the other. Many pranks were played during the threshing season. Ragged clothes were a "no-no" around the threshing machine. One day, Frank decided to teach a hired man a lesson — putting the gang wise — the fun was on!

The individual's rags were torn off him — all in fun of course. Frank then produced a new pair of overalls and the crew went back to work for the day. The individual was just a little wiser from then on.

The Frank McCarty threshing run included work done for Wm. McAreavy, George Dean, Vern Umphrey, Andrew Cherneski, and Ben Hawkins.



Going blueberrying — north of N. Saskatchewan River. Front car — Frank Emery, middle car — Frank Johnson, back car — Frank McCarty. All Model T Fords, 1918.



Mode of travel. McCarty children in the Oligny top buggy. Frank McCarty sitting, Louis Oligny standing, 1922.

The family size increased to include Arthur, Harold, Walter and Luella. To augment the grocery money, Margaurette began churning butter to sell to customers in town. On her Saturday trip to Vegreville, she sold about fifty pounds a week for the price of thirty-five or forty cents per pound. After the delivery was completed, she knew how many groceries could be purchased. Margaurette raised a flock of turkeys each year and sold some to her customers each fall.

Recreation included dances, card parties, and visiting. The McCarty children all attended Ridgemark School and participated in community activities. Sunday afternoons usually found a gathering of people at the McCarty home making ice-cream, a favorite pastime of all.

Frank McCarty organized the 4H Beef Club and the Vegreville Seed Cleaning Plant. His life interests centered around farming activities. Margaurette was a Life Member of the Vegreville Women's Institute and a life member of the Vegreville Exhibition Board. She was an active member of the church organization and the local East Vegreville Farm Women's Club.



Back row (l. to r.): Bert Walker, Louis and Eliza Oligny, Margaurette McCarty, Eileen Walker, Josephine McCarty, Stan Walker. Top: Harold and Art McCarty. Front row (l. to r.): Frank McCarty, Margaurette Walker, Walter and Luella McCarty. About 1930.



Frank and Margaurette McCarty, about 1949.

The family grew up. Eileen and Luella trained in Vegreville Hospital and each received their R.N. degree. John, Josephine and Walter attended Vermilion Agriculture School. Harold, now on the home farm, attended Olds Agriculture College. Art enlisted in the Alberta 19th Dragoons in 1941 and served overseas for about four years in the tank corps. Josephine served in the Women's Air Force.

The children all are married. Eileen married Stanley Walker. Their daughters are Margaurette and Lorraine. John married Irene Green. Their children are Marlene, Jo-Ann, Claire and Arthur. Josephine married Mel Locker. Their children are Alvin, Brian, Patty and Diane. Arthur married Helen Hohn. Their children are Colleen and Dale. Harold married Opal Emery. Their family of six includes Barry, Jerry, Dorothy, Polly, Kelly and Conna. Walter married Flossie Richards. Their three sons are Richard, Doug and Randy. Luella married Joe de Beaudrap. Their family includes Francis, Denise, Robert, Bernie, Patty and Kathy. Frank and Margaurette had twenty-seven grandchildren, thirty-two great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

Frank passed away September 1, 1959, after a lengthy illness. He is buried in the Riverside Cemetery.

Eileen now is retired from nursing and resides in Red Deer, Alberta. John lives on his farm at Claresholm and works as a Security Guard for the Safeway Trailer Company. Josephine lives in Collingwood, Ontario. Art lived in Dawson Creek, B.C., and was a supervisor for Cargill Grain (died Sept., 1979). Harold operates the family farm. Walter is Field Supervisor for the County of Strathcona and resides in Edmonton. Luella is the Director of Nurses for the Three Hills Hospital and lives on the farm at Trochu, Alberta.

Margaurette resides in her home on the farm and enjoys good health. She is still the centre of attention in the family. All her children and grandchildren enjoy her humor and visit whenever they can.

McCleery, Howard and Ethel

Howard was born April 1, 1873 in De Kalb County, Illinois, U.S.A. He and Ethel Corothers of Stronghurst, Illinois, were married April 2, 1902. In April of 1907 they moved to the Park Grove district with their two-year-old daughter Marion. They purchased 240 acres of land from the Vegreville Land Co., having heard about this area from friends and business associates.

Three more daughters were born to Howard and Ethel: Evelyn in April, 1908, Ruth in July, 1909, and Marjory in January, 1911.

Mr. and Mrs. McCleery attended Vegreville Presbyterian Church until about 1913, at which time they changed to Park Grove. Howard ably taught Bible Class in Sunday School for many years.

The girls attended Park Grove School which was named by an early settler (Mr. Able Huff) who lived at one time on the current Gordon Ziegler farm.

Mrs. McCleery died February, 1920 after several years of illness. The four girls were cared for by their Aunt Fannie from 1917 until her marriage in 1921.

The three younger girls took their high school education in Vegreville, while Marion remained at home and was her father's housekeeper and companion until his death on April 1, 1940 at his farm home.

After her father's death, Marion lived with Aunt Fannie and then for a number of years with Evelyn. She is now living in the Wainwright Auxiliary Hospital.

Evelyn and Edwin Cunningham were married in June, 1933. In time four sons joined their happy household: Bruce, Alan, Clifford, and Rex. They lived in Park Grove District until 1952 when they moved to Buffalo Coulee, south of Vermilion. Edwin died the spring of 1958 and Evelyn in February of 1976.

Ruth married Digby Stephens in 1939. Their happy home was blessed by three sons, Digby and

twins Garth and Hedley. Digby Sr. passed on several years ago and Ruth is now living in Middlesex, England.

Marjory married Howard Wilson in 1937. There were no children, but Marjory and Howard were very kind and thoughtful of others. Howard died in 1975. Marjory is now living in Butler, Pennsylvania, U.S.A.

McCrea, James and Isabelle

by Jeanie (McCrea) Sears

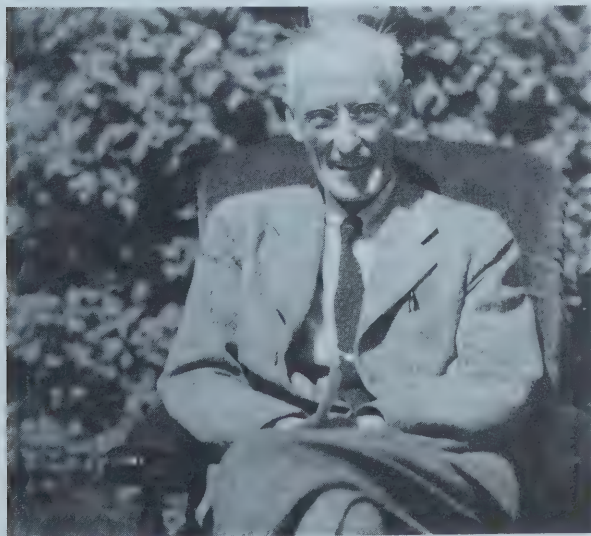
Born in Ireland, James McCrea came to Canada in 1914. Mr. McCrea taught school and homesteaded at Glenevis (West of Edmonton) for five years; taught in Beaver Lake School; then came to Vegreville as Principal of the Public School in January 1921. (That was the old brick school with eight teachers).

During the 1920's he taught night school classes mainly to people wanting to learn English and upgrade their mathematics and bookkeeping. He served many years on the board of the Agricultural Society and as secretary-manager of the Exhibition Association.

He was a member of the Masonic Lodge, the United Church and the Curling Club. He led various boys' groups and was Superintendent of the Sunday School of the United Church. People, young and old, were always a great interest and concern.

Mrs. McCrea's work outside her home was with the United Church and the Women's Institute, the Eastern Star and Curling. She, too, had a deep interest in people.

Mr. McCrea taught for 25 years in Vegreville, then retired to live in Victoria for fifteen years, returning to Camrose where he died in 1960.



James McCrea, about 1946.

Mrs. McCrea continued to live in Camrose and now in Bethany Nursing Home. She is 94.

The Family: James (Barney) McCrea now retired and living in Edmonton.

Jeanie Sears, Tofield — 4 children, 4 grandchildren.

Bertha Watt, Prince George, B.C. — 6 children, 12 grandchildren.

Margie McCrea — Teaching in Camrose.

Isabel (Babs) Paddon — 1 son, 2 grandchildren.

McCutcheon Family

The late William McCutcheon Family came from Aire in Scotland. Bill and his four sisters were born on a croft near Bobby Burns' home. A croft is a farm in Scotland. They came out to Medicine Hat in 1906. Their Dad worked on the Sarnie Ranch and they lived in Medicine Hat.

Their Dad came to Lavoy in the fall of 1908 to work for Mr. Morton, who was the manager for the Merchston Ranch. The ranch was owned by Lord Davis from Wales.

The spring of 1909, Mr. and Mrs. McCutcheon, Bill and Mary moved to Lavoy; the other sisters stayed in Medicine Hat. On the ranch there were four hundred horses, four hundred cattle and eleven hun-



Bill McCutcheon on horse "Buster". Early 1900's.



(l. to r.) — McCutcheon lad, Fred LoBell, Jack Solly, Alex Milroy, Bill Milroy. Early 1900's.

dred sheep. Lord Davis had also shipped his fox hounds out from Wales.

Bill's dad bought the ranch in 1912 with the Purebred Clyde horses and Shorthorn cattle. His neighbors were Mr. Briggs, Mr. Davis, Mr. Gould and Mr. Hubbard.

There was a store where Dowhey's store is now and it was owned by Harry Hughes. The post office was run by Mr. Dinwoodie and it was on Sick Man Hill where Alex Strap farms today. When the post office closed there, they bought the horses from Mr. Dinwoodie.

Mrs. McCutcheon and the girls baked bread and buns every day.

Bill's oldest sister Jean married Alex Milroy and they had two children and they live in Medicine Hat.

The second sister Jessie married Steve Solly; they have five children and they also live in Medicine Hat.

The third sister Mary married Angus MacDonald and lived at Ranfurly. They had three girls.

The youngest sister Bella married Jack Thompson and they lived in Lavoy. They had four children. They moved to Vancouver Island during the Forties.

Bill married a school teacher, Pat Donald, and had three children. William Jr. died in the late twenties; Archie lives in Ontario. He is superintendent of mines and minerals. And his daughter Janet lives in Sechelt, B.C. Bill and Vera Raper have three children. Brenda Straty lives in Lloydminster, Allen is away working and Edith is living at home.

Edgar and George Hallam used to live two miles east of the McCutcheon place; Norman Withers has their place now. When the Hallams moved here from Edmonton, they brought a load of lumber down the Saskatchewan River by scow, to Duvernay, then walked to the homestead.

MacCallums used to live on the farm that Sam Ruptash owns now. The Goulds lived where Bill Kittle farms now. One of the Goulds lives out in B.C. and he comes to visit Bill nearly every year. John Gillespie lived where Sid Woods lived. Their daughter Janet lives in Toronto and Betty lives in Medicine Hat. Cures lived on the John Huzar farm and their daughter lives in Ranfurly now. Her name is Lizzie Engels.

A French man and his wife lived on Frank Yakimovich's farm. They used to fish the little fish out of Twin Lakes. They said they were very good to eat.

McKenzie, Aleksander And Family by Margaret Bosse

Aleksander, known as Alex, McKenzie, his wife Teresa and four children arrived in Warwick in March, 1919, coming from Edmonton where they



First Fairwood School, No. 725, 1924.

had lived from the time of their marriage. Formerly Alex came from Nova Scotia and Teresa from Sault St. Marie, Michigan.

The children were Margaret Isabel, Elizabeth Mary, Kathleen Teresa, and Douglas Charles. In December of that year another son was born and named Aleksander Gracey, but was also called Alex.

The farm they settled on was bought from Dr. Rush of Lamont. It was situated fourteen miles north east of Vegreville which is now known as Old Warwick; the exact location was NW-¼ and NE-½ of Section 35, Township 53, Range 14, West of the 4th Meridian. Across the road from them lived a family whose father's name was Harry Harris. Many people lived on this farm throughout the years, but at the present time Mrs. Anne Zayatz lives there. On the north-west corner the Warwick store and post office were located and at that time it was run by people called "Burkholder". This location is vacant now but behind that is now Lyle Hughston's home where at that time McQuillans lived.

To the south on the west side was the large log Woods house. In the same spring as the McKenzies came, Bob Woods arrived with his wife, Esther, and baby daughter Aileen. Prior to that his parents had homesteaded the land. Later Roscoe Woods came to live with his brother. Today the Bernard Yasinski family live there. To the west on the same quarter of land was the school, a one-roomed building with windows on both sides, called Fairwood, named after the Woods and the Fairburns.

On the same section to the south of the McKenzies, Tenar Morton and his wife came to live about the same time as the McKenzies. Joseph Elkow family live there now. That quarter of land was cut in two by the Vermilion River and they had to come around the corner and go a half-mile east and cross the McKenzie farm to get to their fields.

When Margaret and Elizabeth went to school their first teacher was Mr. McQuillan. His son, Robin, was one of the big boys in school at that time.

That first spring was a trial for everyone and especially for people from the city to start farming. The winter had been very long and cold and the last year's crop was almost nil, so there was a great shortage of feed for the stock. Mr. McKenzie had brought four horses, two cows and two calves with him. He made a trip every two days to Vegreville with the team of horses to buy feed from a railway car that had brought in feed. One day he only got half a bale of hay and was worried as to how he could feed his stock. Then another farmer said, "You have a straw barn on your farm, why don't you feed that?" This he did and saved his precious stock. The children helped pull straw from between the rails.

Mr. McKenzie was a carpenter by trade and the following year he got work building a teacherage at Old Hairy Hill School. This building today is used as a granary on one of Jack Kotelko's farms. The money that was earned was used to buy more stock. Mr. McKenzie attended an auction sale at Mr. Smalley's farm at Hairy Hill and bought a riding horse. The children loved her and called her Dolly. She was around for a number of years. Another animal bought at that time was a black Angus cow called Blackie.

The children's pastimes were horse-back riding, berry-picking and picnics in the field. The favorite game at school was "Prisoner's Base" in the summer and in the winter it was sleigh-riding down the hill to the river.



Teresa McKenzie in her garden; arms full of head lettuce, 1924.

In 1922, Miss Morrison from Vegreville came to teach at the school. By then Kathleen was also in school.

In 1924, Mrs. Milo Ferguson took over teaching. Grade eight exams were departmental and the names were published in the Edmonton Journal. After that Margaret went to Edmonton to take grades nine and ten, returning to Vegreville for grade eleven. A new school was built at Fairwood in the summer of 1927.

That year, a very sad event happened. Alex, the father, passed away suddenly on the 11th of November, 1927. He was taking his first load of grain to Vegreville with his best team of horses. He got the load up the hill just where the horses could hold it, in front of Woods' house. He dropped the lines and then just lay back on the ground. Mrs. McKenzie was standing at the well watching him and she ran to him



Wynn-McKenzie was Sec.-Treas. for the Municipal District of Norma in 1945. He came to the Vegreville District in 1902.

and then to Woods' house. Mrs. Woods phoned Mr. Cromb who was running the store at that time. He ran to the parsonage not far away where his son Bill was getting his car ready to go to teach school at Brush Hill. The car was a Ford coupe and he, with the help of his father, brought Mr. McKenzie's body home.

Margaret and Elizabeth were at the Convent in Vegreville going to school, so Christie Moore's daughter, Orrie, came to take the girls home.

Mrs. McKenzie, who was known by her friends as "Mrs. Mac", looked after her children and managed her farm, also taking part in community and church affairs.

In 1928, the railroad came from Willingdon through the new siding of Warwick, and on to Vegreville. This helped the farmers a great deal for they were still hauling grain with horses.

Margaret was working at the store for Mr. Cromb when the store and post office was moved to Warwick beside the railroad. Later Margaret went back to school.

A new two-roomed school was built at Warwick called Brookside. Elizabeth and Kathleen went there for grades nine and ten. They drove with horses accompanying Mrs. Milo Ferguson who was teaching there then.

Later Alex and Douglas went to Brookside, but they rode horseback. Then they began to farm until the War came along and they joined the Airforce. Both were missing in action in 1942.



Alex McKenzie on a homemade raft, on Vermilion River. Kathleen and Douglas in the water, 1927.

Margaret and Kathleen became teachers and Elizabeth a registered nurse.

Margaret married Ivan Bosse of Plamondon, Alberta, and they lived on Ivan's farm until October 1941 when they came to take over the McKenzie farm.

Kathleen married Albert Poelvaarde of May-erthorpe, Alberta; they later moved to British Columbia. Kathleen taught school at St. Joseph's Mission, a residential school for Indian children at William's Lake for a number of years, then on June 23, 1966, she suddenly passed away.

Elizabeth married Dean Pryor of Santa Maria, California, and she is still following her nursing profession.

Mrs. McKenzie travelled and visited her daughters until 1955 when she came back to make a permanent home with Margaret on the farm. Then in February, 1967, she decided to go to the Vialta Lodge in Viking where she remained except for holidays on the farm. She passed away December 19, 1972. She is laid to rest in the Riverside Cemetery at Vegreville alongside her husband.

Margaret and Elizabeth are all that are living of that happy family who did so enjoy farm life.

Nelson, Chris **by Chris Nelson**

I was born in Denmark on October 15, 1893, and came to Hayward, Minnesota, in 1909. In June, 1911, I came to Alberta by train to Edmonton and Vegreville and by mail coach to St. Paul de Metis. I was looking for a homestead but failed to locate one at that time so went back to Vegreville looking for a job.

I found work with a farmer, Oscar Johnson, who lived on the S.E. of section 12, township 52, range 15, west of the fourth meridian. This land later became part of the Roberts Bros. ranch. Oscar Johnson was a big Swede from Dakota and was one of the first settlers around the area. He was the first town policeman for Vegreville. After the railroad came through, he moved from the old town of Vegreville to the new townsite — four miles away. The year 1911 was a wet year and the crops were heavy, but it froze very hard and little of it was worth threshing. Late that fall Oscar took me over to the Roberts Bros. ranch to help me get a job and we were invited in for coffee. The old gentleman, Mr. Roberts, was there on a visit from Texas. His two sons, Tom and Burk, were owners of the ranch. Oscar told them, "I have brought a man up here. He needs a job. He's a good man, very willing to work and knows what to do." Burk Roberts then spoke up and said, "I'll tell you how things are. We



Audrey and Arthur Wise came to Vegreville, 1913.



Mr. and Mrs. Chris Nelson, riding Pat and Mike, 1917.



Grandpa Wise and Hub. Worth at Vegreville, 1917.

have five men working for their board and tobacco now, and we could get 500 more from Edmonton anytime." And this was very true. Then Mr. Roberts, the old gentleman, spoke up and said, "Well, Burk, I think you should hire Chris anyway and pay him something. I always like to have one man that I can depend on and when I send him someplace I know that he will come back." Burk said then, "How much do you think we should pay him?" Mr. Roberts replied, "You could start him on \$15.00 a month and if you get along you can always raise it." So I was hired and I worked for them for many years and they raised my wages many times.

In the winter of 1914-15, when one of the regular mail stage drivers, Ed. Roberge from St. Edouard, east of St. Paul, took the winter off to get married, I was hired to take his place. Sigler and Richardson had the contract to haul daily mail with horses from Vegreville to St. Paul and all the post offices in between. I would leave Vegreville at eight in the morning with a load of mail and some passengers, not more than six. The first stop was 12 miles down the road at Warwick. There was a store and post office and Tom Burkholder was the postmaster. Then on to Noah Theroux's place on the flat, where I would change horses and have a fresh team. Next stop was Wattsford P.O. and then on to Two Hills P.O. Fred Schoff was the postmaster there. Duvernay P.O. was the next stop and Mr. Theroux was the postmaster. I would stop for dinner at the Brosseau hotel after delivering the mail to the P.O. there. Here at the hotel I would meet the other stage driver, Tom Risdale. He would be on his way south with the mail. When he went south I would be going north so they had daily mail both ways. I didn't drive his horses nor he mine. After dinner I would take another fresh team and drive on to Lafond P.O. I would change teams again at Robertsons, but later on in the winter they tired of that arrangement and I went further on to John Brunelles. With this team I would make it to St. Paul between six and seven in the evening. It was a 65-mile drive. The next morning I would start out again with more mail and passengers on my same route back to Vegreville. I drove this route six days a week back and forth. Sigler and Richardson had a big livery barn full of horses and Mr. Bill Lorenson was looking after them.

On Sundays, Mr. Sigler and I would hitch a lively team to the cutter, take two coyote hounds and drive out to the country. There were some open sections of land there and when we saw a coyote we would drive fast toward him. When the hounds had him spotted we would let them out and the chase would be on. One hound was very fast and would catch the coyote in the rear end and old Buster would get him by the



Mr. and Mrs. Worth, 1913.

throat and we would get there as quickly as we could. Then Mr. Sigler would get a willow club and finish off the coyote. When we got a fur like that, Mr. Sigler

Vegreville, Alberta May 4th 1918
 To the Hon. M. J. McLean
 Vegreville Alberta.
 In account with
 ...The "Roland M. Boswell" Hospital...

For hospital attendance from April 25th to May 1st at the rate of \$2.50 per day	22	50
Baby at \$0.00 per day	4	50
Dressings	4	00
	3	1.00

R.M.B. Hospital bill, 1918.



Gas shares, 1913.

always said, "That will help buy the groceries!" I was getting \$40.00 a month and bed and board for driving the mail stage. That was very good wages at that time.

I married Amy Wise on June 12, 1917, and we lived in Isaac Taylor's deserted shack about nine miles from Vegreville. My wife had come from England in June 1913. She came with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Wise and her brothers and sisters — Fred, Eddy, Arthur, Jr., Minnie and Audrey. Her older sister, Lily, was married to H. T. Taylor and they and their baby daughter, Doris, came over at the same time too. My wife and I rode horseback to check on Roberts Bros. herd of cattle, about 1000 head. These cattle grazed between Vegreville, Viking, Bruce and Holden in small scattered bunches. It was my job to doctor for foot-rot or whatever else needed attention and to move them if they bothered the farmers. That winter we fed hay to about 800 head of cattle seven miles north of Bruce and watered them at a spring. Alec Fedoruk was my helper. In the spring of 1918, I rented the Jim Foote place south of Vegreville, from a fellow named Henry Thompson. That was the year that Alberta froze black from one end to the other in July. It froze three nights and there were twelve degrees of frost on July 24th. There was nothing to thresh but the second growth provided green feed.



John and Etta Wilson at Vegreville about 1916. Later moved to Edmonton.

Late in the fall I was hired for \$3.00 a day by the Robert Bros. to round up cattle, using my own horses. We moved to Oscar Johnson's farm, three miles east and one mile south of town. That was a good farm and we had a good crop in 1919, but it was followed by a long hard winter.

In the spring of 1920 my wife and I and two small children, moved to my homestead N.E. 15-57-5-W4, 3½ miles north of Lindbergh. At that time it was known as Moosewa. We made our permanent home on this farm and raised three sons and five daughters. After the death of my wife in 1969, I retired from farming and moved into my present home in Elk Point.

Nestoruk, Peter (1893-1978) by Pearl and Peter Jr.

Peter was born in Sniatyn, Bebeluya, Galicia, Ukraine, on September 23, 1893. He was the second of four children, having an older sister Pearl, younger brother William and younger sister Mary. His father was a precentor in the church and insisted on schooling for the children. In this respect Peter was more fortunate than most. When he arrived in Canada on April 18, 1910, via St. John, New Brunswick, on the SS Mt. Temple, he know no English but he was educated and found adjusting to a new language (English) much easier than many oth-



Golden anniversary — Peter and Pearl Nestoruk, June 25, 1977.

ers. Immigrants at that time were marshalled to Winnipeg where they either stayed, or headed to the known homestead areas of Alberta and Saskatchewan, or pushed on to the Crowsnest Pass where there was almost always work available on the railroad or in the mines.

Peter chose to head west from Winnipeg. From 1910 to 1914 he worked on rail gangs between Fernie and Calgary, but mostly in the Crowsnest. Interspersed were various labouring jobs including working on the construction crew that laid the first cement walks on the main street of Fort Macleod. In the next few years he had saved enough money to send his younger brother William a ticket to Canada. Thus both escaped the risk of compulsory military service in the Russian Imperial Army.

By 1915 Peter had decided that learning English by association and absorption was inadequate. That year he travelled back to Winnipeg to study English at a school for foreigners sponsored by the Presbyterian Church Missionary Board. Again after working the summer of 1916 on the railroad out of Fernie, Peter came to Vegreville in the fall to attend the Vegreville School for Foreigners, also sponsored by the Presbyterian Church. At the time, this school was located about two blocks north of the tracks just off main street, about where the Elks Hall was located. He completed the equivalent of grade eight under the tutelage of a Mr. Howard. This work-study sequence was repeated in 1917; summer work on the railroad, back to school in Vegreville in the fall.

During these two years, some of the students set up a spare-time project. They had no money and much time, so they organized a news report labouriously handwritten with carbon copies. This publication, "Zora", was comprised of newspaper news, local interest news and student news, written in Ukrainian. There were at least 8 issues published and any copies remaining today would be invaluable. Peter was the President of this project with Peter Wasylishyn as Secretary, William Wawrenewich as Editor and Thomas Chrapko as Assistant Editor.

In order to continue a high school education, Peter had to go to Victoria High School in Edmonton in the fall of 1918 where he finished grade 10. The infamous influenza epidemic of that year forced the school to close before he could go any further. While he was in Edmonton, Peter learned of the death of many of his friends in the Crowsnest as a result of the flu epidemic. Also, the yardmaster at Elko, another friend, was killed in a rail accident. The glamour and appeal, such as it might have been, went out of railroading at this point and Peter wisely chose to pursue a less physical commercial career.

In 1919 he attended the Saskatoon Business

School where he took commercial and bookkeeping courses. On completion of this course he accepted a job in a bank at Hafford, Saskatchewan. In 1920 Peter heard that the Manager at the Bank of Commerce in Vegreville, Mr. M. L. Gordon, was looking for Ukrainian-speaking staff, so he applied for a position and was accepted. He always held the belief that he was the first Ukrainian employed by the Bank of Commerce west of Winnipeg. For the next five years, Mr. Gordon encouraged self-improvement. For a period Peter roomed on the second floor of the Bank. His room had a trap door in the floor which, when opened, gave access to the Bank below. He was issued a hand gun with the responsibility of defending the Bank's property in case of holdups and other minor insurrections. It took more than a few weeks before Peter learned to sleep through normal night noises, always with the fear that he may at some time have to really use that gun. It never happened.

In 1925, A. W. (Bert) Fraser, already established in business, recognized the potential of having an educated English-speaking Ukrainian with a solid commercial background in his business. Encouraged by Mr. Gordon, Peter accepted Bert Fraser's offer as a junior partner. The resultant partnership, Fraser & Nestoruk, Real Estate and Insurance, endured as a well-known and highly respected business until the death of A. W. Fraser in 1951. Their office was located, for longer than the partnership period, next to the Alberta Hotel, where Mike Dutka hosted, fed and watered the class of travelling salesmen of that era. Peter continued in this Real Estate and Insurance business on his own for eighteen years.

In 1927, on June 25th, Peter wed Pearl, the youngest daughter of the nine children of the well-known Royal Park Pawliuk family. This was on a Saturday. Coincidentally, they celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on June 25, 1977, also on a Saturday.



Three generations (l. to r.) — Peter Nestoruk Sr., son Peter Daniel, grandson Peter Richard, 1976.

During the period 1927 to 1930, Fraser and Nestoruk believed they could capitalize on the steadily increasing land prices and invested in four sections, not too far from town, for small down payments and large mortgages. The 1929-1930 crash caught them but good and as Peter would describe it "they went broke". It was quite a few years later before he could chuckle about it.

The Depression — Vegrevillians knew and experienced the hardships as much as any Western Canadian. Peter, Jr. came along about this time, prompting Peter, Sr. to utilize his bilingualism and business background and generate some additional income. He spent the early 30's travelling as a collection agent for International Harvester. This was the epitome of depression. How do you collect from someone who has absolutely nothing? He followed this by becoming a land inspector or appraiser for National Trust, which by comparison was much less emotional. As a result of these years of travelling the area, he knew almost all of the farmers within 25-30 miles of Vegreville and definitely all of the Ukrainians.

About 1940, Peter bought an interest in the White Rose Service and Bulk Station, then located off Main Street about a block north of the tracks. By 1942 the area economy was swinging back and the partnership of Fraser & Nestoruk was revived in full force. Great West Life granted them an agency for mortgage applications; Bert Fraser was a War Bond Commissioner and farm sale transactions were increasing; as a result the little office was a hive of activity. That doesn't include the summer afternoon when a swarm of bees actually came in the open door and took over the front part of the office. It was John Kuzyk who suited up in his bee gear and picked out the queen and saved the day.

In 1940, the Nestoruk family bought and moved to the vacant Presbyterian Boys' Home at the crest of Mount Pleasant. Two stories came off, a new roof was put on, and the house still stands the same today.

During the following years Pearl raised a couple of cows, some chickens, some turkeys, vegetables, many flowers and, of course, Peter, Jr. Peter, Sr. advanced his appraising talents and served as a municipal assessor for several years. He was the Census Commissioner for the 1961 Census. Earlier during the 50's, he served on the Committee of Stewards of the Vegreville United Church. During this period Pearl was most active with the Ladies' Aid and served a term as President. As for Peter, Jr., there was Young Peoples, Tuxis, and — does anyone remember seeing an Indian haircut in the choir one Sunday?

In 1970, at the age of 77, Peter finally sold his business to Ed Bilyk and retired, still in Vegreville. He continued his daily walks (in most weather) to the

town reservoir. At least twice a year Peter and Pearl would motor to Radium Hot Springs, many times to meet and visit his brother Bill from Coalhurst, always stopping in Calgary to visit Peter, Jr. and grandchildren Peter III, Carol and Jill.

Peter Nestoruk passed away on December 2, 1978 at the University Hospital, Edmonton. He missed by but eighteen days the birth of his first great-grandchild, Ryan Reid, firstborn of granddaughter Jill and husband Jeff Reid in Calgary.

Peter Nestoruk was proud of his heritage, but he was a Canadian. He was always conscious that his adopted Canada was good and sufficiently generous to him. He often said that during his working life here, there was never a day he ever felt unemployed. The Ukraine, the "old country", was a great place to come from.

Newcombe, Fred H.

by F. H. Newcombe

I was the first District Agriculturist in the district which stretched from Edmonton to Lloydminster and from Camrose to St. Paul. I drove my model T Ford over a lot of that area and with roads that were somewhat less than good. My first office was next door to the Vegreville Land Office and I had a lot of high class furniture such as a kitchen table for a desk and a kitchen chair that was just barely safe to sit on. This was O.K. though, since one was not supposed to spend much time on the chair. I think D.A.'s today spend altogether too much time on their chairs and not enough on the farms. This is known as progress. We didn't have a conference every week either in the early days.

I think perhaps my greatest contribution toward the agriculture of the district was in the promotion of the bacon hog. 1924 saw the first Boys and Girls Swine Club in the area and this was the nucleus for much of the improvement. The winnings of some of the members in provincial and federal competitions also stimulated interest. Peter and Jim Wyllie (and maybe Bob also), Albert Jones, the Chappell boys and others that I don't at the moment recall, were pioneers in the swine club and Peter could give you a lot of detail. He used to come in 13 miles to club meetings on a bike or on foot — no car.

Nicholls, Jim

by Marg Nicholls

On July 2, 1979, Jim Nicholls retired from the Alberta Power Company after 41 years of faithful service. Born and educated in Calgary he became an employee of the Canadian Utilities in 1938 and was sent to Vegreville district. Throughout the following



Jim Nicholls, July, 1979.

years his work in various departments brought him into personal contact with many customers both in town and farm communities. The years spent with Rural Electrical Associations involved long hours of night meetings both near and remote, and were usually held during winter months when Alberta winter conditions made travelling hazardous for everyone. It was a rewarding experience to assist in enabling many farmers make the first step to farm electrification. Treasured friendships grew and Jim will long be remembered for his pleasant and cheerful manner both to his fellow employees and business associates.

Jim served in W.W. II with the R.C.N. and C.P.O. Electrical Artificer and is a member of the Vegreville Canadian Legion. In 1938 at the age of 21, he joined the Bow River Masonic Lodge of Calgary, became a Past Master of St. John's Lodge, Vegreville, and a 32° member of the Scottish Rite.

Jim is a lover of golf and good music and during the 30's was a trombonist with the Calgary Symphony Orchestra. He serves on the Executive of the Vegreville Golf Association, and is a former President of the Vegreville Rotary Club.

Jim and his wife, Margaret, have one son, Jim Jr., and one daughter Vicky.

Margaret contributed much to the cultural life of Vegreville, being long associated with I.O.D.E.,

Vegreville Public Library, and Laura Evans Reid Art Club. Besides producing fine paintings herself, Marg Nicholls was instrumental in bringing to Vegreville quality art displays and professional art teachers.

Nicholson, Bill and Verna

by Verna M. Nicholson

For five years I taught school at Park Grove. My father (Dr. G. D. Armstrong) had returned to Vegreville in 1932 as United Church Minister. (I say "returned" because he had been pastor of the Vegreville Methodist Church from 1910-1912, and was already acquainted with some of the citizens — the Hulett family, Mr. Willis Cole, Dr. Goodwin, Mr. Howard McCleery, and others. He conducted services at Park Grove until his death in 1944). Park Grove School was needing a teacher at that time, and I was fortunate in being chosen for the position. I remember going to the school to be interviewed by the Board, Mr. Robert Wilson, Mr. Charlie Fuller and Mr. Henry Zeigler, and being very favorably impressed. The building had a really well-cared-for look for which I believe Mr. Bert Jennings, as Secretary-Treasurer, was largely responsible. And later, when I met the children on that rather frightening first morning, I knew for sure that this was a good school.

One thing worried me, though. I had been told that the Inspector, Mr. Andy Doucette, was a very strict and stern character who wouldn't overlook a single thing concerning the school. However, when he arrived to visit us we were very pleasantly surprised. Mind you, he didn't "Miss a single thing", but he was so quick and deft and interesting you couldn't help liking him. You wouldn't believe how fast he could print on that blackboard unless you saw it with your own eyes! Mr. Doucette was very keen about the School Festival held in Vegreville every spring, with competitions in vocal solos, recitations, choruses and drama. All schools were encouraged to enter, and we took part each year.

We also had a concert every year at Christmas time, making sure that ours didn't take place on the same night as the one at Ryan School, so that we could attend both. The concerts involved a lot of hard work, but were a lot of fun. I remember one when the pupils took complete charge of the evening's performance, even to writing the welcoming song. My senior girls had everything so well organized that I was able to stay off the stage at the piano for the whole concert, which went beautifully with no lags between items, and no hitches of any kind. I really believe the Christmas Concert was preferable to the School Festival. Only a few students could take part



Bill Nicholson building his homestead shack. Don Stewart was Bill's helper. 1930.

in the festival at the top level, but for the concert every single child had some individual, and special part to play.

Those were a happy five years. The children got along well together for the most part. They enjoyed out-door sports like baseball and skating in the good weather and singing games like "The Muffin Man" "A Hunting We Will Go" and "The Merry-Go-Round" when storms kept us indoors.

Another thing that made those years enjoyable was the Young People's Group. I recall one year in particular when Ormy Trimble was president. We were divided into three groups, and each group in turn was responsible for one section of the meeting's program. This resulted in a lot of good games and contests, short plays and hilarious skits. (Do you remember Mr. Bill Davis on a broomstick demonstrating how young Lochinvar would ride out of the west? A truly unique performance!) The best items from each program were selected, and at the close of the season these were put on as a concert. Impartial judges evaluated each item, and the groups winning the most points were treated to a banquet put on by the vanquished ones. It was a busy fun-filled winter. We also had dances, pie socials and box-socials, and one year we put on a play, "Deacon Dubbs", I think it was called, which we took to Brush Hill and later to Vegreville.

Yes, they were a good five years. Some of the things that stand out in my memory are:

—The happy songs Gordon Ziegler used to sing practically every recess.

—Mary Jane Campbell laughing till the tears came, over some exploit of "Winnie-the-Pooh".

—And Elsie Salamandick asking wistfully if "there weren't any more Pooh stories?"

—The Ziegler sleigh full of youngsters homeward bound, with Arthur Ziegler, looking so small in charge.

—The day our little stove in the cellar refused to co-operate so that we had cold potato soup embellished with raw onions for lunch.

—Albert Meyer after one of our concerts, very efficiently auctioning off pies so we could buy a set of "The Book of Knowledge". He was about ten years old at the time.

—Edward Sanford chuckling over something he'd read in one of the Reader's Digests I'd put in the library. Edward was always more than willing to argue the pros and cons of Social Credit, a hot subject in those days.

—The sweet singing voices of Gwendolyn Dake, and Gordon Fraser.

—Mike and Mary Triska haggling over a peach pie at one of the concerts.

—And Doug Campbell making the hind end of our stage elephant do a most unexpected and un-rehearsed dance.

—Ethel Davis, who thought nothing of ordering a bull out of her path, jumping up on a desk and screaming in unfeigned terror when a mouse ran across the school floor.

—The winter every desk in the school was occupied, nearly double our normal group. We had two Lloyds and three Ernests answering roll call.

—Ex-students Dan Triska and Jenny Salamandick performing on their violins at concerts. Bill Cunningham and Bess Shaw singing solos.

—The wit, humor, and originality of quiet Evelyn Cunningham, in our Young People's programs.

—Ormy Trimble, with screw driver and pliers, tuning the piano.

—Cyril Bigham playing the piano for dances.

—Dave Brown, directing "Deacon Dubbs" for us, trying hard to change Bob Irvine's Scottish burr to a Texan drawl. Unsuccessfully.

—Mr. Ed Eickmeyer driving my dad and me to Park Grove on winter Sunday afternoons. His sleigh was closed in and always warm and comfortable.

—Lila Ferguson and Mrs. Robert Wilson with their arms around each other singing from the same hymn book (Lila had to stand on the desk). They made a lovely picture.

—Mr. McCleery teaching the Bible Class.

My school days at Park Grove ended when Bill and I were married. Bill's father, Arthur Nicholson, had come to Canada from England about the begin-

ning of this century. He returned to the old country, married Bill's mother, then came back to Canada in 1904 with his wife and young son, Arthur. They went first to Sedgewick, and both John and Bill were born there. The family then homesteaded for a time at Fork Lake where Dorothy was born, but finally settled in Vegreville. Mr. Nicholson died when the children were still quite small. Later on Bill's mother married Mr. H. E. Worth and they settled here on the farm. Young Arthur Nicholson died the following year, but I know that some people in the district remember him. Mr. Worth died in 1933 and Mrs. Worth died in 1962.

John married Gladys Cook (their report is elsewhere in this account, so I won't repeat).

Dorothy married Carswell Gorsline. They had five children:

1. Lyle married Betty Leotpsy of Dawson Creek.
2. Jimmy married Gladys McDougal of Rocky Mountain House.

Lyle is a gunsmith and Jimmy works for an oil company. The two of them own a Sporting Goods Store in Olds.

3. Dianne married Paul Bodnarek, a real estate agent.
4. Sheila married Jim McFadzen, a lawyer.

Both Dianne and Sheila live in Edmonton.

5. Laura married Dale Landry, who is now lecturing in Business Administration at the University of Lethbridge.

Bill and I have two sons:

1. Keith, married Kathleen Todor, a nurse. He is now an Associate Professor of Mathematics in the University of Calgary. They have two sons: Jason and Mark.
2. Gordon, married Joanne Kalbfleisch, a dentist. Gordon is now teaching music at Grant McEwan College in Edmonton, besides working in various musical groups in the city. They also have two sons, Daren and Curtis.

Bill and I are retired now, but still living on the farm.

Nicholson, John and Gladys by Gladys Nicholson

In 1904 John's father, Arthur Nicholson, and his brother-in-law Foster MacKenzie, left South Shields, England, for Canada, to take up homesteading. They settled around Sedgewick in the North West Territories. In 1906 his wife, Maria, and their small son Arthur joined the men on their homestead and began life in Canada. Their first home was a sod shack. These shacks were warm in winter and cool in summer, but when it rained the water came through two or three days after the storm had passed. John was born in the sod shack in 1907 and his brother Bill a year and a half later.



Sharpening binder knife. (l. to r.) — Bill Nicholson, Mr. H. Worth, John Nicholson. In back — rabbit hutches and Mr. Worth's bachelor shack. 1920.

Around 1910 the Nicholson family, accompanied by the Evans and Napier families, headed north, in covered wagons, pulled by oxen, for Fork Lake. This was a two-hundred-mile trip, in which they crossed the North Saskatchewan and Beaver rivers, going around sloughs, up steep hills and down vales, through bush, herding about forty head of cattle, as well as driving the oxen. They intended to start cattle ranching in the north country.

In the early days Fork Lake was at the north end of the lake and the village of Rich Lake on the south end. When the two villages were registered in Edmonton, they got the locations switched around so on the map today it would be at Rich Lake that they homesteaded. The homestead they took up is still known as the "Nicholson Ranch".

While living here their daughter, Dorothy, was born. Due to an accident, while rescuing cattle from quicksand, Arthur Nicholson was not able to do heavy work which homesteading required, so the family moved to Vegreville, arriving in August of 1911.

Three new buildings had just been built in Vegreville in 1911; the Bank of Montreal, the Bank of Commerce, and the Public School. These buildings were heated by steam furnaces and so required a person with some knowledge of steam to operate them. Arthur Nicholson had this knowledge and so took on the job of looking after these buildings until his death on January 2, 1915. With his death, Mrs. Nicholson was left with four small children to look after.

In 1917 Mrs. Nicholson was married to Herbert E. Worth and moved to the farm on the north quarter of Sec. 26-52-15-W4 with her four children — Arthur, John, William (Bill) and Dorothy.

In 1935 John married Gladys Cook and they started their married life on the N ½ of 13-53-15-W4, which John's stepfather had bought in 1915.

Gladys was the elder daughter of George W. Cook, who came to Canada in 1905, from London, England. He homesteaded near Bruderheim and in 1913 married Dorothy Fordham. After the death of his wife in 1920, he sold the farm and came to Vegreville to live. He travelled for the W. T. Rawleigh Co. for ten years. The Park Grove district was part of his territory to travel. He lived with his daughter and son-in-law for a few years, then moved to Edmonton. He died in 1943.

The first two years on the new farm were very lean ones as the crops were frozen in 1935 and there was hail in 1936. Our first milk cow was bought from Roy Campbell and she provided over eight pounds of butter a week. This was traded off for groceries every week at the rate of twenty-five cents a pound. John set out a trap line and caught enough coyotes, weasels and one skunk, that with the money from the pelts we were able to buy a cream separator. If we ran short of meat, a walk down the field would provide some rabbits, prairie chicken or partridge.

In 1935-36 land taxes were about ninety-eight dollars a year for the half-section and half of this could be worked off by doing some road work. Most farmers put in a certain number of days, with a team of horses, filling pot holes and grading roads. In winter the roads were opened up with a walking plow tied to the side of a sleigh box for our cars. This often was blown in with snow before anyone got a chance to use it.

In 1938 wheat was selling for fifty-five cents a bushel for No. 1. We hired men for fifteen dollars a month and we boarded them, to do spring work. Stooking in the fall was paid at the rate of twenty-five cents an acre and men got three dollars a day for threshing. Hired girls' wages were seven to eight dollars a month with board. A pair of overalls and smock sold for around four dollars and a house dress for one dollar.

Every fall, thirty or forty bushels of wheat were taken to the flour mill in Vegreville and fifteen one-hundred-pound sacks of flour were brought home and stored in the attic of the house as well as thirty pounds of "real" cream of wheat. Added to this were the hundreds of jars of fruit, jams, pickles and canned meats to see us over the winter and into spring.

Five children were born in this family — Arthur, Dorothy, Walter, Janis and Laurence (Larry).

Arthur was born in 1937 and attended school at Park Grove for eight years. The last two years of school here he looked after the fires and did the sweeping and dusting in the schoolroom. He took his high school in Vegreville and drove the school bus while completing grade 12. Upon graduation he joined the Toronto-Dominion Bank in Vegreville and

was then transferred to Grand Centre Bank. In 1960 he became Manager of the Station Cold Lake Saving and Credit Union Ltd. In 1966 he moved to Calgary to become Manager of the Hydro Saving and Credit Union. He was married to Margaret McCallum in 1958 and they have three children: Brian, Shelley and Clifford.

Dorothy was born in 1938 and died in 1939.

Walter was born in 1939 and attended school at Park Grove for five years, then was bussed to the Vegreville schools. He worked for a few years at the Soil Research Sub-Station in Vegreville. He then attended night school at N.A.I.T. while apprenticing for his journeyman's ticket in welding. This he obtained in 1965 and in 1969 he received his B pressure ticket; then in 1970 he got a Tig ticket and including Stainless steel and aluminum tickets. In 1962 he married Lynne Walden and they have two children Robert and Gwen. They make their home in Edmonton.

Janis attended school at Park Grove for two years and then finished her schooling in Vegreville. She went in training for a Certified Nursing Aide and graduated in 1960. She nursed at St. Joseph's General Hospital, Vegreville and in the Camrose Hospital. She did secretarial work at the Vermilion College for nearly a year in 1963 and was a Medical Secretary in the Smith Clinic for two and a half years. She is very interested in raising, training and showing horses at horse shows and has many nice trophies to display for her work. In 1962 she married R. S. Smith of Vermilion. They have two sons — Trevor and Kyle and make their home on the farm near Vermilion.

Laurence (Larry) took all his schooling in Vegreville and attended the Vermilion School of Agriculture. He worked for Canadian Co-operative Implements Ltd. in Westlock for a few years and then was transferred to Hanna. In 1968 he joined the Alberta Wheat Pool and served his apprenticeship at Delia, Oyen, Acme, Youngstown and surrounding districts. In 1970 he took over the managing of the elevator at Hemaruka and two years later he moved to Veteran and ran the No. 2 elevators in Veteran. In 1977 he was appointed Personnel Representative for the Alberta Pool in the Peace River country. In 1968 he married Lila Boyson and they have three children — Christopher, Charlene and David.

During the years the children were growing up the boys were very active in 4-H Beef and Dairy clubs, showed and won prizes on grains and grasses at the local fair. They were members of the Jr. U.F.A. Janis showed her horses at the fairs and won her share of ribbons. They learned square dancing taught at the school by Arthur Ziegler. Handicrafts were taught to the young people of the district by Mrs. C. Fuller and

Mrs. Jessie Ziegler. They were also active members of the Anglican Church.

John has always been very active in community projects. He was the district representative for a few years on the local school board until the large school district took over. He belonged to the Vegreville Seed Cleaning Plant, the Vegreville Co-op, the Alberta Wheat Pool, U.G.G. and was the first secretary of the Park Grove Community Centre. He is a Past Master of the Vegreville Masonic Lodge and served on the vestry of St. Mary's Anglican Church for thirty years.

Gladys has held Offices in the Farm Women's organizations over the years: has held the offices of president and director in the Park Grove Community Centre, served on the vestry of St. Mary's Church for twenty-five years and also taught Sunday School; was president of the Vermilion Deanery in 1968-69; has held all offices in the local St. Mary's W.A. and was presented with a Life Membership in 1967.

The teachers boarded at our home for five years, so we had the excitement of Christmas concerts, Halloween parties, Valentine's day, pie socials, box socials and shadow sales, which were put on to raise money for school concerts and parties.

Just as the tractor and combine replaced the horses and threshing machine for the outside work, so did the electricity do away with the ax and wood box and the hauling of water from the old hand pump. The only thing on the farm which is still the same is part of the old wagon trail which came from Beaver Hill Lake and divides just inside the gate; one branch went north to Duvernay and the other one east to Sickman Lake. It is the driveway into the farmyard. We have been told that in the fall of the year people camped and picked berries, as saskatoons, pincherries, chokecherries and wild raspberries grow in abundance.

Oligny, Louis and Eliza

Mr. and Mrs. Louis Oligny arrived in Vegreville via C.N. Railway in April, 1913, from New Richmond, Wisconsin, U.S.A. They came West with their only daughter, Margaurette and her husband, Frank McCarty. The first home was set up on the Ernie Emery homestead.

About 1915, Louis sold his quarter to Palmark and the Olynys moved to the farm in the Park Grove District, on the Warwick Road. Louis built the buildings, Scritsmier doing the carpenter work. He also cleared and broke land using horses and a breaking plow. Later, this place was sold to Scritsmier.

The Olynys moved to the Graves' farm, two miles north of Vegreville. They lived in the old



Oligny farm — later sold to Scritsmier, 1918.



Left couple — Louis and Eliza Oligny. Right couple — John and Mary Ann McCarty, visiting from Wisconsin, about 1924.



Four generations, back (l. to r.) — Eliza Oligny, Margaurette McCarty. Front — Eileen Walker, daughter Margaurette, 1939.

Grave's house until the new house was built about 1927. Mr. and Mrs. Oligny milked cows on this farm. When granddaughter Josephine was arriving, the older children, Eileen and John, were dropped off at the gate. Not finding Grandma in the house, they ventured on to the barn where Grandma Oligny was milking. Her question of surprise was, "Well, where did you come from?"

The Oligny's made their home here until about 1931. They moved to the north side of Vegreville town and they sold the farm to F. W. McCarty. Louis built the Oligny Block on the main street of Vegreville which still carries the name Oligny and the date 1931.

Louis did a lot of gardening, and he kept bees. Mrs. Oligny enjoyed her home, doing crossword puzzles, playing solitaire and minding her great-grandchildren. Grandma Oligny's "town milk" (can of Carnation plus milk) was the treat of all. Grandpa's strawberries and maple buds were treasured memories. Grandpa Oligny's "peasoup" and fried cream of wheat were two special dishes — skills acquired from his former years as a chef in railroad hotels in the U.S.A.

Louis and Eliza celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary.

Louis passed away May 7, 1945, and Eliza died November 1, 1949. Both are buried in the Riverside Cemetery.

Olineck, Andrew Sr. **by Mary (Olineck) Babak**

Andrew Olineck came to Canada from the Ukraine at the age of 19 years. In 1914 he married Frezina Diachuk and they lived at Brosseau for two years, then moved to Two Hills and lived on a rented quarter-section. In 1927 they bought land southeast of Vegreville from Arthur Wain who was killed in a terrible binder accident. Their son John still farms there. There were exceptionally hard times in the 30's; it was difficult for the children to go to the country school, Ridgemark; there was no hope to go further; every one of the older children had to go out to work and then help at home as well. One of Mary's treasured souvenirs is a snapshot of the class of girls dressed in gingham gowns and sun-bonnets for the action song which won a prize at the yearly school festival. Mr. Olineck died in 1954; Mrs. Olineck still lives on the home place with John and family. At 83 years, she is still busy with her cross-stitch work and her family.

There were ten children in the family, nine living today:

1) Mafty, born 1916, married Vera Eliuk; they live in the Lavoy district, and their children are Patsy,



Part of Andrew Olineck family (l. to r.) — Mafty, Mary, mother Frezina holding baby Harry, Ruby, Andy, and Andrew (father). Two Hills, 1923.



Andrew Olineck farm in 1948 after fire destroyed their house; the family lived in shack at right until a new home was built.

Sylvia, Martha, and Orest who is now Supervisor of Instruction for the County of Minburn.

2) Mary, born 1917, married Steve Babak, recently moved back to her home town and is employed part-time at Western Drug.

3) Ruby, born 1919, married to Peter Sharun, and lives in Vegreville; worked for many years in Sol's Store; their children are Vickie Duke of Vancouver and Andy, married to Maurie Switzer, graduate of Vegreville School of Nursing.

4) Andy, born 1921, married to Mary Eliuk; farms ½ mile from the home place; children are Sharon Armstrong, Lorraine, Ronnie (farming on the former Alec Riemer place), and Debbie.

5) Harry, born 1923, married Nellie Zurawell; living in Edmonton.

6) John, born 1926, married Margie Kisilevich; children are Vivian Locker, Olga married to Larry Golinowski of Vegreville, and Leonard, George and Donna at home.

7) Ann married Bill Luhoway; they live in Vegreville; children are Dave, Terry, Linda and Brian.

8) George, born in 1934; died in 1935.



The Andrew Olineck family, 1940. Front (l. to r.) — Annie, Andrew (father), Lillian, Frezina (mother), Elizabeth. Back (l. to r.) John, Ruby, Andy, Mary, Harry. (Missing) — oldest son Mafty.

9) Elizabeth married Gordon Houg and lives in Edmonton.

10) Lillian married Fred Hawirko and lives in Edmonton.

Orfino, John and Anne

by Anne Orfino

I started school at seven years of age because in those days you had to be seven before you could start. My first teacher's name was Mr. Middleton. We attended only two months of school during the first year because the only teacher available was from the Normal School and taught only during the summer months. In later years we went for about three months during the winter if it wasn't too cold. There were no roads so we walked across the fields in deep snow; some children had to walk four and a half miles. The school was so cold our lunches used to freeze so the kids carried wood during recess to keep the school warm and thaw the lunches.

I got married in 1927, February 8, to John Orfino. We lived in Vegreville for one month with John's parents and then moved to a farm near Lavoy in March and lived in a one-roomed house. That house is still there. John's dad bought the land from Billy Ridell and John and his Dad bought four horses and that was how we started to farm. Thirty acres were broken but there were big roots to clear before we could seed a crop. John's Mom and myself were picking those roots and I loosened the dirt around them with an axe. During the winter we burned those roots for firewood in the round tin heater. Our house didn't have a ceiling so the inside walls would frost up and the water would freeze in the pail. John put the ceiling in later. After we were married a year, John bought a cow, six chickens and a rooster. Next spring

I set two clucking hens and raised fifteen chicks. As the years went we bought two more cows and a sow so we had calves and piggies. Our first cow died after her calf was born but we raised the calf by getting skimmed milk from our neighbors, Mr. and Mrs. Davie. They lived where Anton and Mary Sokalski live.

We raised a big garden and canned all we could and made lots of sauerkraut, cottage cheese and brenza and also canned beef and pork. Our neighbors half a mile away were Mr. and Mrs. Frank Ford (Harvey Ford's parents), Mrs. and Mrs. Roy Cole and Mr. and Mrs. Davie.

Edna, Bill and Mike were born in the R.M.B. Hospital in Vegreville which was located near the Vegreville Exhibition Grounds; Edmund, Edwin and Terriss in St. Joseph's Hospital in Vegreville. Dr. R. M. Reid was the doctor except for the last one and Dr. J. F. Reid attended. All of the children went to Victory school except Terriss who attended school at Lavoy.

John passed away July 25, 1962. I moved to Lavoy in November, 1975 and have very nice neighbors and friends. The boys remodeled the house for me and the family all chipped in and bought a colored TV for me because they thought I wouldn't have anything to do seeing as how I was now retired.

Our family:

Edna married Mike Semeniuk November 7, 1953. They live on the original Semeniuk farm north of Lavoy. They have five children:

Michael married Beverly Dumont and they have two girls, Lisa and Trisha.

John married Betty Bey.

Tony married Trudy Fedoruk and they have one son Chris. Tony passed away November, 1977.

Their only daughter Debbie works at the Royal Alex in Edmonton.

Robbie is attending school in Lavoy.

Bill married Elizabeth Skoropad. Bill is with the Treasury Branch in Edmonton and they have two daughters: Charlotte married to Dwight Wentland, Evelyn married to Norman Markowski.

Mike married Lorraine Volk and they have two sons Jim and Darcy. Mike is with Edmonton City Power. Lorraine passed away April 1975.

Edmund works for C.N. in Calgary and is still single.

Edwin married Rose Hnatyshyn and they have three sons: John, Glen and Bob. Edwin works in the Toronto Dominion Bank in Edmonton.

Terriss married Elaine Zallaz and they live on Orfino's home farm and have two children: Richard and Lisa.

Pag e Family as told by Marie Rose Pag e

The Pag e family lived in Frenchtown for a number of years before WW 1. Alice Pag e married Harry Montpetit who was CNR telegraph lineman for many years; they lived in a cottage at the corner of 54Ave. and 49St. with sons "Pete" and Raymond.



Ed Pag e family — at their farm south of town, 1945. Back (l. to r.) — Ed (father) and eldest son Felix. Front (l. to r.) — Clara, Delia, Marie Rose (mother), David, Rene and Leonard.



Clara and Nick Lacusta and their honeymoon car, 1952.

Lillie Pag e married Herman Dubuc; they lived south of town and raised their family there, moved to the city about thirty years ago and both are dead now.

Ed Pag e served in the army in WW 1; in 1923 he married Marie Rose Bourget and they began to farm on his Soldier Settlement quarter south of Vegreville, (now Richard Schoettler's). Starting from scratch, they were as poor as city mice, says Marie Rose, but it didn't matter much because everyone was in the same situation. They made their own fun, even to manufacturing their own music sometimes from dishpans and sleigh-bells — they didn't need a \$500 band to entertain them. Since they lived closest to Dubuc school, they were the caretakers and had to start fires early before school and parties. Even the fun of dances got rather tiring when the caretakers had to stay until everyone else had gone — pretty late, or early sometimes! Ed and Marie Rose raised six healthy children: Felix, Rene, and David all now in Edmonton; Clara of Vegreville; Leonard at Thunder Bay; and Delia of Ardrossan. The senior Pag es moved to town about twenty-five years ago, buying a house on 43St., and Marie Rose worked at the hospital for a few years until Ed's failing health required her care. He died in 1969. Mrs. Pag e now lives happily in Park View Manor, Vegreville.

Clara Pag e married Nick Lacusta in 1952 and they began mixed farming on part of the old Pag e place. They are still busy at it, while also working part-time in town and being involved in church work and hockey games. Of their five children, only the youngest Dwayne, is at home; Gary, Debbie, Beverly, and Gail are all in other parts of Alberta now.

Palahniuk, John and Katrina by Victor Palahniuk

John Palahniuk was born January 31, 1897, in the village of Kysyliw, county of Chernivtzi, province of Bukovina in Ukraine. In 1914 he emigrated to Canada, coming to the Willingdon area where an uncle, John Gordey, was already settled. Here he worked as a farm laborer. The first year he worked only for room and board, the second year he earned an extra one hundred dollars. In 1916 he joined an extra gang working on the railroad for the C.P.R. in the Edson area and held this job for three years. In 1919, with the few dollars that he earned working on the railroad company, he bought a pair of horses, a pair of harnesses, a wagon gear and box, and also made a down-payment on a quarter of C.P.R. land in the Ispas area.

On May 12, 1920, John married Katrina Zukiwski, second oldest daughter of John and Vaselyna Zukiwski, born November 21, 1902, at Wostok, Alberta.



John and Katrina Palahniuk, about 1960.

The two worked together clearing and plowing the land. For several years, every fall, immediately after cutting down his crop, John would leave his young wife at home for about a three-month period while he would go back to work on the railroad to earn a few dollars to make payments on the land he had purchased. While John was away, Katrina would haul the sheaves home and pile them in stacks, ready for threshing. In 1925 John purchased another quarter of land from George Zukiwski and in 1941 he purchased three quarters of land from the Hudson Bay Co. They farmed in the Ispas area for 24 years.

In 1944, after selling the farming operation in Ispas, John purchased a half-section of land two miles north of Vegreville from Jim Cadzow. Several years later, along with son Victor, they purchased the Mark Kitto place. John continued farming till 1964 when he retired from active farming. During their life at Ispas, John and Katrina helped build and were active members of the Brinsley Ukrainian Orthodox Church and the Ispas Community Hall. When they moved to Vegreville, they joined the St. Vladimir Ukrainian Orthodox Church, with Katrina being an active member of the church Ladies Organization. During the building of the new church they made a generous financial donation.

Their family consists of one son and five daughters: Victor, Sally (Mrs. Peter Barlott), Lena (Mrs. Tom Hill), Mary (Mrs. Ivan McGowan), Vicky (Mrs.

Marshall Triska), all of Vegreville, and Sadie (Mrs. Peter Grykuliak) of Lavoy. There are 17 grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

After a lengthy illness John Palahniuk died August 22, 1978. Katrina is now living in the Homestead Senior Citizens Home in Vegreville.

Palahniuk, Victor and Gladys

by Victor Palahniuk

Victor Palahniuk, born May 27, 1932, at Ispas, is the only son of John and Katrina Palahniuk. Victor took grade school in a small country school called Brinsley in the community of Ispas. In 1944, along with his parents and sisters, he moved to Vegreville where he completed his Jr. High School. After leaving school Victor worked on the family farm helping his father. In 1955, along with his father, he purchased the Mark Kitto farm on which he and his family still live. In 1950 Victor was chosen to attend "Farm People's Week" at the U. of A. in Edmonton. In 1959 Victor quit farming and joined the staff of the Alberta Liquor Control Board in Vegreville where he is still employed.

On May 25, 1963, Victor married Gladys Fodchuk, daughter of Mike and Kalyna Fodchuk, of Myrnam, Alberta. Victor and Gladys have one son, John-Michael, born August 18, 1964, and one daughter, Maria, born December 2, 1968.

Victor and Gladys take an active part in church and community affairs. Gladys is a past member of the Vegreville Jaycettes, a 4-H Club leader, member of the Ukrainian Greek Orthodox Ladies Auxiliary, member of the Vegreville Cultural Association and a member of the St. Vladimir Ukrainian Greek Orthodox Church Choir.



Victor and Gladys Palahniuk, 1978.

Victor was an active member of the Ukrainian Youth Organization (CYMK); was a member of the Church Drama Group which performed many plays and concerts (1959-65); was secretary-treasurer of the St. Vladimir Ukrainian Orthodox Church Building Fund for six years during the planning and building of the new church in Vegreville; was a member of the Vegreville and District Ukrainian Orthodox Centennial Church Choir in 1967 of which a record album was cut; took part in teaching and directing Sunday School for several years; was one of the founding and executive members of the short-lived Vegreville Ski Club in 1961-62 until vandals destroyed the tow cable and club house on top of Sickman Hill north of Lavoy; was Charter member and on the executive of the Vegreville Jaycees (Junior Chamber of Commerce) during the days of the Polar Bear Pow Wow and the building of the Jaycee Air Park; was Charter member and Director of the Vegreville and District Historical Society; Charter member and Director of the Vegreville Cultural Association sponsors of the Ukrainian Festival; member of the St. Vladimir Ukrainian Greek Orthodox Church since 1955; member of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church Choir; life member of St. Andrew's College in Winnipeg and member of the Order of St. Andrew.

In 1978 and 1979 Victor was Program Chairman of the Ukrainian Festival and in charge of the grandstand show. He brought in top performers from across Canada and the U.S.A. for two excellent grandstand shows.

Paquette, Albert and Glenna **by Glenna (Gafka) Paquette**

Albert Paquette and Glenna Gafka were married in 1945. Albert, the son of John and Indiana Paquette, who farmed eight miles south-east of Vegreville, started working in town at Allore's garage. In 1949 he purchased his own gravel truck and drove for Diachuk's Construction for four years. That year, to help make ends meet, he and a neighbor John Hantiuk conceived the idea of selling Christmas trees. The two young entrepreneurs nearly froze to death fetching and selling their load of swamp spruce; the result of the grand scheme was scrawny left-over trees, worn-out men, and thinner purses. For the next five years, Albert worked at Vegreville Motors and Green's Garage. In 1958 he purchased North End Service in partnership with Bernard Plouffe, continuing there until shortly before his untimely death on July 1, 1977.

Throughout their married life, Glenna kept busy at home, in church work, and as help-mate to her husband, even pumping gas at the garage in emergencies.



Albert and Glenna Paquette, 1945.

Albert and Glenna had four children, all born, raised, and educated here.

Cpl. Richard Paquette of the RCMP and his wife Marcia and two children reside in Vernon, B.C., where he is presently stationed.

Patricia (Mrs. Bob Warawa) lives in Vegreville where Bob is a welder; they have three children.

Ralph Paquette married Faye Tebbutt and with their two sons reside in Edmonton where he works for the CNR.

Hazel Paquette, having just graduated from VCHS, is working in town and keeping company with her mother in their comfortable trailer home.

Paquette, John and Indianna

by George Paquette

My father John B. Paquette came West from Quebec shortly after the turn of the century. He was in his early teens at the time and obtained work with the Grand Trunk Railway Company, at a time when they were building rail lines and bridges through the western prairies. He became a 'framer', a unique occupation or profession that disappeared with the end of wooden trestles and bridges. He in fact transposed from blueprints to actual lumber and during these times was able to mark as much as one million feet of lumber in a day. His father Guillaume Paquette and family followed him West and for a few years, farmed south-east of Vegreville. They later returned to Quebec; however, the sons remained, Rosario staying on the home farm until his retirement in Vegreville about fifteen years ago. Other sons, William, Willie, Celestin and Elzear stayed behind. All have since passed away, except Willie, who lives in St. Paul, Alberta.

John Paquette married Indianna Pelletier and after a few years of travelling and working in different areas, settled on a farm south-east of Vegreville. They had originally homesteaded one of the three

quarters. They remained there until their retirement to Vegreville in the fifties. My mother was born in Old Vegreville and recalled living there until the townsite moved to its present location. Her parents, Eugene Pelletier and her mother, who was a Poulin, were some of the very earliest settlers in the area, having arrived from Quebec and Kansas respectively, many years before the arrival of the railway.

Like so many of the early settlers, my parents suffered through droughts, bitterly cold winters and the need to travel long distances for supplies, mail and delivery of grain — when the only means of doing so was with horses. A trip to Vegreville, just over nine miles, used to take three hours each way.

They raised three children — Jeanne (Mrs. Chris Den Ouden), who has lived in various places in Canada and the United States. Until a few years ago they operated a travel agency at Fort McMurray. Chris is a retired Colonel from the U.S. Army, and they have a home, formerly the Bricker residence in Lavoy. George is married to the former Joan Tassie; they have five children. He served 35 years with the R.C.M. Police, in different parts of Canada and is now retired and living in North Vancouver. Albert worked and farmed in the Vegreville area and for a number of years, in partnership with Bernie Plouffe, operated the North End garage in Vegreville. He married Glenna Gafka and they had four children. Albert died in 1977 and Glenna continues to live in their home in Vegreville.

Paquette, John and Indianna

by George Paquette

The Paquettes first came to Vegreville just after the turn of the century. They had owned and operated a saw mill and flour mill, situated on a farm near the Village of Luceville, Rimouski County, Quebec. The father, William, had previously travelled West as a young man, to the Klondike Gold rush, only to turn back at the infamous Chilkoot Pass. The West had, however, appealed to him and he subsequently decided to return and try his hand at farming: homesteading south-east of Vegreville.

They were accompanied by five sons: Celestin, Willie, Rosario, William and Elzear, and two daughters: Anne-Jane and Matilda. Another son, John, had previously left home to work in the New England states, later travelling West to work for the Grand Trunk Railway as a “framer” in the construction of wooden bridges and trestles. After his family’s arrival, he too decided to try farming and bought land near his parents nine miles south-east of Vegreville.

A few years later he married Indianna (Allie) Pelletier, daughter of Eugene Pelletier and Eugene

Poulin. The Pelletiers and Poulins were amongst the very first settlers in the area, first living in Old Vegreville, then relocating in Vegreville when the railway came through. Indianna, who had started school in Old Vegreville, completed her studies at St. Martin’s convent.

After a few years of farming, the elder Paquettes returned east accompanied by their two daughters. The sons stayed — Celestin dying as a young man, Willie and William settling around Bonnyville, and Rosario and Elzear staying on the home place. Rosario farmed there until his retirement in Vegreville in the 1960’s.

John and Indianna farmed and raised cattle for a few years, and it was during this time that their three children, Jeanne, George and Albert were born. After a few years John decided to rent the farm and return to bridge construction and carpentry. During the ensuing years the family lived at Brandon, Manitoba; Melfort, Saskatchewan; Kamloops, B.C.; and Los Angeles, California. They returned to the farm in 1925, later buying two more quarter-sections of land and remained there until retirement in Vegreville in the mid-fifties.

Because of the distance from school, poor roads and harsh winters, the children took their first years of schooling at home through correspondence courses offered by the Alberta Department of Education. They then attended Imperial School and later high school in Lavoy, where one teacher taught Grades nine to twelve, including such subjects as French, Latin, Art, Biology and Chemistry, not to mention Literature, Geometry, Algebra, Trigonometry, etc. The same teacher supervised recreation periods and somehow found time to become involved in school sports, plays, etc. The dedication of these teachers and their contribution is well worth remembering.

After finishing school Jeanne worked at various jobs in Vegreville, Edmonton and then in Whitehorse, Yukon, during the construction of the Alaska Highway. She married there, to Lt. Johnnie Hooks of the United States Army, and they later moved to Fort Lewis, Washington. He died a few years later and she subsequently married Lt. Colonel Chris Den Ouden. After his retirement from the United States Army, they lived in Vegreville for a few years. They then moved to Fort McMurray and were there during the tar sands development years, operating a Travel Agency. They’ve since sold their business and now spend their time between the United States and their home in Lavoy in the Bricker house — built in 1928.

George joined the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in 1940 and served with them for thirty-five years. He retired as Assistant Commissioner in 1975,

Commanding Officer of the Province of Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario. He married the former Joan Tassie of Winnipeg and they have five children: Anne (Mrs. Dwaine) Modder, John, Susan, Linda and Paul. He served in various parts of Canada, in different capacities, and after their marriage the family lived in Corner Brook, Newfoundland; Montreal, Quebec; and Winnipeg, Manitoba. They now live in North Vancouver, B.C.

Albert stayed around Vegreville and farmed for a few years. He then went into the trucking business, later taking up mechanics. For a number of years he was in partnership with Bernard Plouffe in the operation of the North End Garage. He married Glenna, daughter of Minnie and Adolf Gafka of Vegreville and they raised four children: Richard, married while in the R.C.M.P. at Vernon; Patricia (Mrs. Bob Warawa) lives in Vegreville; Ralph, married and working for the C.N.R. in Edmonton; and Hazel, at home. Albert died in 1977 and Glenna still lives in Vegreville.

Early years on the farm were not easy for John and Indianna Paquette. They were so far from town and had no near neighbours. They went through years of drought, hail and frost, as well as the great depression of the thirties. There were undoubtedly times of real loneliness and discouragement. They, however, persisted and, over the years, achieved a measure of satisfaction and success.

John died July 11, 1959, and Indianna six months later, January 10, 1960, after a lengthy illness. Their passing, and that of so many like them, marks the end of an era — the end of a generation of settlers and homesteaders that brought improved railways, roads, communications, schools and hospitals, long before the advent of cars and airplanes, radio and television and myriads of other improvements and comforts that are taken for granted today. These early arrivals were courageous and respectful of each other's needs and aspirations, always appreciative of any kindness or assistance extended to them and, in turn, only too willing to help when they could. This attitude and code of life was an important factor in their ability to surmount and survive through many difficulties and hardships. And, like so many others who had lived through those difficult times, they often recalled the past and had a very sincere appreciation of the easier way of life that followed.

Parker, Edward D. and Matilda by Dorothy Gladish

Edward D. Parker was born in Saratoga County, New York. He and his wife, Matilda Boyd Parker, came to the Park Grove district northwest of Vegreville in 1911. Mrs. Parker died on September 5,



E. D. Parker home — Park Grove district. More than thirty years separate these two photos of the Parker home taken in 1944 and 1977 respectively.

1934, and her husband passed away April 13, 1938 at the age of 74 years. Mr. Parker's obituary described him as "the most upright and shrewd of businessmen. He was not the type of man who pushed himself forward, and his retiring nature meant that he was not a well-known man in the district, but the neighbours with whom he came in contact knew that in Ed Parker there was a man who was dependable and trustworthy."

Payne, Harry and Bertha by Alice (Payne) Albrecht

Harry Thomas Payne was born in Otterton, Devonshire, England on September 13, 1871, one of five children. He had to go to work at the tender age of eleven to help make a living for the family — his father having died when Harry and his twin sister Mary were only four years of age.

He came to Canada in 1894 — the trip taking sixteen days, over very rough seas. He worked in Brampton, Ontario, for four years for as little as \$8.00 per month. He made the friendship of Stewart Kitto and they both went to Manitoba near Wawanesa to work.

In 1902, Harry and Stewart decided to come further west and both took homesteads in the Vegreville district. Harry's was located near Old War-



Payne family, 1927. Standing (l. to r.) — Alice, George, Arthur. Front (l. to r.) — Mr. Harry Payne, Reta, Mrs. Bertha Payne, Lillian.

wick. He later purchased a quarter-section of C.P.R. land located about two miles north and a little west of what is now Vegreville. This quarter formed the nucleus of the larger farm he developed through the years.

He worked in J. Walter's sawmill in Edmonton and helped float timber down the N. Saskatchewan river to build the first bridge at North Battleford, Saskatchewan. He also worked in the woods and helped build the C.N.R. With the carefully saved money he was able to start farming his land.

Although he suffered many adversities of varying sorts, he faced them with staunch spirit so typical of an Englishman and found so often in the pioneers from every land.

Bertha (Kirkwood) Payne was born in Abilene, Kansas on September 27, 1870 — the oldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. S. A. Kirkwood. She, along with her parents, brother and sisters, her grandparents Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lank, their son Howard and his wife and family, came to Canada in 1902. They lived in Edmonton till 1907 at which time they arrived in Vegreville, taking up residence in Park Grove district and living on the land directly east of the Charles Fuller place and later owned by Wm. Cunningham. Bertha and her brothers and sisters received their schooling at Park Grove.

She married Harry Thomas Payne on April 19, 1911. They had six children, George, Arthur, Alice, Lillian, Reta and Florence.

They resided in Vegreville for three years after their marriage, Harry being the Massey Harris general agent at that time. In 1914, they went to the farm and remained there till 1921. Once again they made Vegreville their home; this time Harry had a lumber yard, a machine agency and sold coal. He also bought and shipped stock for the U.F.A. In February of 1928 fire destroyed the home and place of busi-



Harry Payne (father), Bertha Payne and youngest daughter Florence, in Chilliwack, B.C., 1948.

ness, so back to the farm it was again. Their two sons were now big enough to be of help on the farm. The family stayed on the farm this time until it was sold in 1946 to Dan Triska. It is presently owned by A. Horvat.

Over the years, both Harry and his wife Bertha were active in the community and the United Church. Harry held many executive positions, being President of the Vegreville Exhibition Association for some fifteen years, a director of that same organization for thirty years, Reeve of the M.D. of Norma for eight years, Chairman of the United Church Board, President of the Vegreville Co-op Livestock Association, President of the Co-op store, President of the Vegreville Percheron Club. For a few years he held all these positions at the same time. Besides this, he supervised farming operations.

Bertha was active in different organizations but mainly in the United Church Ladies' Aid. A wonderful cook and always a thoughtful and kind person who thought of others before herself.

In 1946 the section of land they had acquired over the years was sold and they returned to Chilliwack, B.C. This lovely little city in the beautiful Fraser Valley reminded Harry of his childhood home in Devonshire, England. The oldest son George and the youngest daughter Florence went with their parents to B.C.

George married Phyllis Porter of Chilliwack. They live in the house that was purchased in 1946. George still writes up insurance.

Arthur married Leone Fuller of the Park Grove district. He passed away in 1968 at the age of 54 and Leone still lives on the farm they purchased from the Jennings.

Alice married Ed Albrecht, a grain buyer at Inland, later moving to Ryley, Alberta where they owned a garage and had a bulk fuel outlet. Ed is now

retired and their oldest son Darryl has taken over the business.

Lillian married Clare Cavanaugh, a C.N.R. agent. They lived in many places over the years. Clare is now retired and they live in Kelowna, B.C.

Reta married Art Adamson, a pilot with Air Canada. Art still flies and they now live in West Vancouver, B.C.

Florence married Leslie Ford, a printer for the **Chilliwack Progress**, and presently Production Manager for the **Red Deer Advocate**. They live in Sylvan Lake, Alberta.

Harry Thomas Payne passed away on June 7, 1951 at the age of 79.

Bertha Mary Payne passed away in Bethany Auxiliary Hospital in Calgary on January 22, 1975.

Pelletier, Eugene and Eugenie by Marie-Louise (Bienvenu) Pelletier

Mlle. Eugenie Poulin born May 15, 1878, came in 1894 with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Poulin, and brothers and sisters to the original settlement in this area (now Old Vegreville). Mr. Eugene Pelletier born in Quebec August 17, 1866, had moved to Kansas with the French group where he met Mlle. Eugenie Poulin and naturally he followed that young lady to this location in 1895. On February 12, 1896, they were married here and in April they moved into the new home which Mr. Pelletier built on Section 10-52-15.

All their children were born and raised in this area: their first Della, Mrs. Aurele Benoit, born 1897, is still living in Donnelly, Alberta.

Indiana, Mrs. John Paquette, now deceased.

Joseph and Aurelie, who died young.

Augustine, Mrs. Ovila Dubuc, now deceased.

August, who married Marie-Louise Bienvenu and still lives in Vegreville.

Ernestine, Mrs. Art Gerarde, now deceased.

Seeking a milder climate, the Pelletiers sold their current farm to Hans Mayer Sr. and moved to San



Mrs. Eugene Pelletier, 1919, with Mr. Pelletier in their Model T behind.

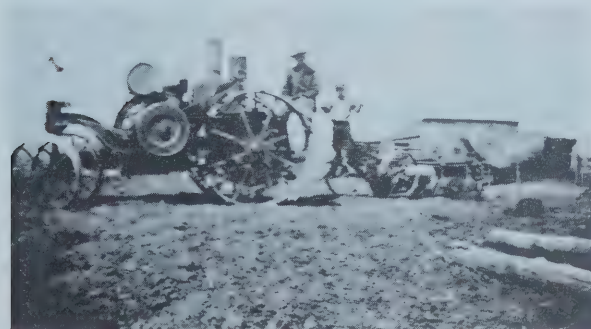
Diego, California, but a year later returned to Vegreville where they lived in a small house by the hospital and had a sheep ranch in the open land between the hospital and the CNR. The young son, August, was the sheep herder and thus earned the nickname "Sheep", by which he is known to this day.

In 1917, Pelletiers bought a section of land in the Lavoy district (6-52-13) where they did mixed farming. Mr. Pelletier's hobby was his race horse which he would hitch on the cart and take for a run down the road. A hard worker, Mr. Pelletier died after much suffering in January, 1925.

Mrs. Pelletier is well remembered for her good cooking and as a proud, neat lady who always had a nice hat, even if she had to design and refurbish her own millinery. She was always seen in the kitchen in a pretty embroidered apron made of flour sacks. Nobody could make hot biscuits like hers, yum! yum! She passed away in 1951 at the age of 72.

August got married in 1935 and he and Marie-Louise had two children, born and raised here:

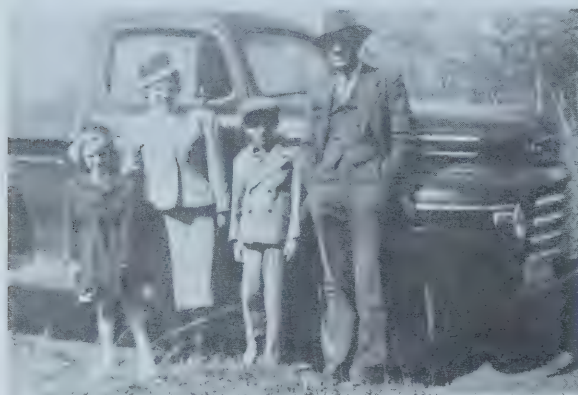
Eugene born in 1937, married Eva Bushey and has two children; his son Lance Pelletier, may be the only one to carry on the family name.



Eugene Pelletier and son August on their "Mogul" gas-powered tractor, bought with the Lavoy farm, 1917.



Mr. and Mrs. E. Pelletier (in background), Della (daughter) holding the baby; and their pet horse at Lavoy farm, 1923. Note the plowed fire-guard around the buildings.



Annette, Marie-Louise, Eugene, and August Pelletier in 1946 at Lavoy farm in front of 1946 Ford 1/2 ton, the first new truck they owned.

Annette born 1940, married Orville Trimble of Vegreville and they have four children.

In 1964 August sold the Lavoy farm and moved to Vegreville where they still live. He then worked with Albert Paquette in North End Service for about ten years. Now semi-retired at 69 he still helps out at farm work and travels with his wife to many parts of the globe. Mary-Louise has been involved with church work, Women's Institutes, and Girls' Club at Lavoy; now she is known for her expert handicrafts.

Petecki (Petaske), Jan and Julianna by Lena Melnychuk

This is the story of Jan and Julianna Petecki. They were both born in the same village of Berlin, in the District of Brody, which was a region of Galicia (Western Ukraine). At that time Galicia was ruled by

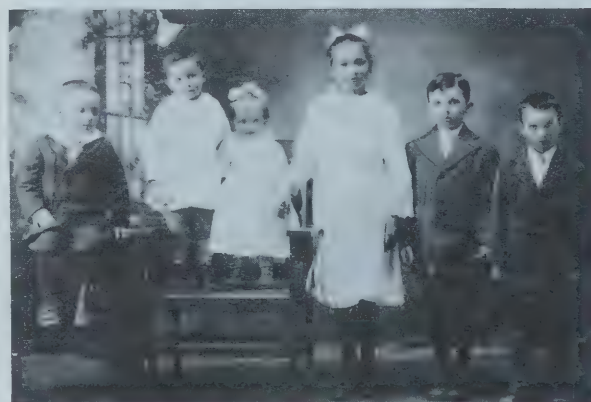
Austria, but largely populated by Ukrainian and Polish people.

Jan Petecki, who was Polish, was born in 1880. He was the son of Joseph Petecki and Tekla Ludwig. In 1902 he joined the Austrian army. It was after his discharge in 1906 that he became part of the emigration to Canada. His destination was Lanuke, Alberta, south of Two Hills, where his brother Frank homesteaded in 1903. His parents and brother and sister remained in Galicia.

Julianna Prochownik, who was Ukrainian, was on the same boat to Canada. She was the daughter of Andrew Prochownik and Anna Prystupa. Julianna was on her way to Strathcona, Alberta, with her married sister, Malanka Sawchuk. She did this only to appease their mother, who did not think Malanka should live in a strange country without some of her



John (Jan) and Juliana Petaske with daughter Michalina (Lena). Their first Vegreville home in background, spring of 1912.



The children of John and Julia Petaski. Left to right — Adam, Mike, Rose, Lena, Tommy and Joe, 1921. Twins Mary and Peter were born in 1924, 3 years after this picture was taken.

own family. Four other children of Anna and Andrew Pochownik remained with them. A story Julianna often told about her journey was about how she and her friend left the train in Winnipeg to buy some eggs and bon-bons. When they returned to the train, with the eggs in their aprons, they saw it was leaving without them. Clutching their aprons, they ran down the tracks after the train! Of course they missed the train and broke the eggs. Luckily, they had on several aprons and skirts. Somehow Julia rejoined the Sawchuks who had acquired a homestead in Plain Lake, also around Two Hills.

Jan also acquired a homestead, but it is not known if he worked this land before he went to work on the railroad. However, his Naturalization Certificate, which he received in 1909, lists him as a farmer. Julianna worked in Vegreville at the R.M.B. hospital.

On January 31, 1910, Jan Petecki and Julianna Prochownik were married at his brother's farm by a Roman Catholic priest. Julianna said she married him because she knew he came from the same village and that he was single. Their first home was a tiny hut with room only for a bed. Soon after they moved to Vegreville, where Jan built a house just north of the tracks, near the grain elevators. This would be their home for the next 30 years. It was here that their children were born. First Michalina (Lena), then Tommy, Joe, Adam, Mike, Rose, Peter and his twin, Mary. As the family grew, Jan added on one room to the house, then another. Life revolved around the Holy Trinity Greek Catholic Church and the Ukrainian community. The oldest children attended Vegreville Public School and on Saturdays were taught Ukrainian by Mr. Peter Svarich. It was during this time that the name Petecki was "Anglicized" and they became known as the Petaske family. Jan became known as John and Julianna as Julia.

During the years John continued to work on the railroad, operated a small store, which he built on the corner of his property, and worked as a carpenter. In 1918, when the influenza epidemic struck, he could barely keep up to the demand for the coffins he built. The Petaskes were one of the fortunate families who escaped any illness. Another time they weren't so lucky. Adam caught diphtheria and the whole house was quarantined for 2 weeks. Another incident was when Joe fell into a big electric post hole, head first and was very frightened and had nightmares. His mother took him to a lady who did witchcraft by pouring hot lead into water which made little figures of the incident and cured him.

Julia, as well as being a seamstress, cared for the family. They had a happy household. After helping with the chores the children made their own fun.



Vegreville Dominion Day Parade. Sheldon's Store in background where Lena Petaske (Melnychuk) worked. She is also on horse next to store and Josie Stewart (Reidlinger) is next to her, July, 1927.

They built huts in the bush, (anything missing from the house could be found there), played at the river, or at the elevators. A lot of activity occurred at the tracks, especially in the fall when boxcars full of apples and cucumbers arrived. And, what a day, when John brought home a pail of Coca-Cola for the first time!

As time went by, the Catholic school system was established. The younger children then attended St. Martin's School.

Lena finished school and worked in Sheldon's store on Main Street. In 1936 she was Queen of the Elk's Carnival. In 1937 she married Joseph Melnychuk of Winnipeg, and moved to Edmonton. They had three daughters: Barbara (Mrs. Julian Koziak), JoAnne (Mrs. Gerry Prodor) and her twin Judy (Mrs. Thomas Heisler). There are eleven grandchildren. Joseph Melnychuk passed away in May, 1973, and Lena retired. Julian Koziak, M.L.A., is currently the minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. Before this he was Minister of Education.

Tommy was very active in sports. During high school he worked at Northern Hardware and later at Burns Creamery. In 1937 he married Catherine Tymchuk, a teacher from Two Hills. After their daughter MaryAnne (Mrs. Lawrence Pshyk) was born they lived in Elk Point before moving to Edmonton in 1945. Both are now retired. MaryAnne and Lawrence are teachers with the Edmonton Catholic School System.

Joe attended Vegreville Commercial School before moving to Holden. In 1938 he married Agnes Olson of Holden. Later they moved to Edmonton. They have four children: Arlene (Mrs. George Buxton), Douglas (Joyce), Sharon Carefoot and Debbie. There are eight grandchildren.

Adam, after leaving school, moved to Edmonton. In World War II he joined the R.C.A.F. and



Service station, east from present town shop. Lena Petaske behind pillar, 1920.

served as an Air Gunner. He made 20 missions over Europe. His rank was Warrant Officer. In 1952 he married Anne Sager of Edmonton. Adam passed away in September, 1976.

After high school, Mike moved to Edmonton and played hockey in the Major Junior League. He joined the R.C.A.F. and after his graduation as a Flying Officer, served as Staff Pilot in Canada for four and half years. In 1951 he married Irene Falkenburg, of Edmonton. They have four children: Jacqueline

(Mrs. Glen Gravelle), Wendy, Patricia (Mrs. Peter Kent), and Mark.

Rose finished school and for a short time worked at Sheldons. In 1939 she moved to Edmonton and in 1944 married Stanley Bowes, of Magrath, who was in the Armed Forces. After a short time in Ottawa they lived in Lethbridge. Later they lived in Florida before coming back to Edmonton. They have five children: Gerald, John (Vicki), Don, Ken (Janice), Norman and Anne Marie. There are two grandchildren. Rose and Stanley are retired.

Peter moved to Edmonton when John and Julia did, in 1940. He and Mary attended Sacred Heart School there. Later he joined the Armed Forces and served in Europe. In 1946 he married Sophia Ann Jas of Amsterdam, Holland and returned to Edmonton. They had three sons: Larry, Danny (Sally), and Ron. There are two grandchildren. Peter passed away in June, 1975.

Mary, Peter's twin, attended Technical school and during World War II worked for Air Craft Repairs. In 1947 she married Walter Kulchisky of Edmonton, who also served in the R.C.A.F. They have six children: Carol (Mrs. George Roberts), Neil (Linda), Dianne, Gregory, Ted, and Valerie. There are four grandchildren.

John Petaski passed away on December 6, 1971. He was 91 years old. Five weeks later, on January 10, 1972, Julia Petaski passed away at 89 years. They are



Elks Carnival, Lena Petaske crowned Queen; retiring queen was Mary Kostashuk, Lady-in-Waiting was Mary Farrell, 1936.

presently survived by six children, twenty-six grandchildren and 27 great-grandchildren.

Phillips, John and Nancy by Nancy Phillips

The Phillips family came from the village of Krenky in the district of Huseatyn, Province of Galicia which is now the Ukraine, USSR, but was then under Austrian domination.

They had four children with them and one son, John, was born in Canada after their arrival in 1902. In 1930 John married Nancy Yaremcio. They settled on a farm (16-54-15) between Mundare and Vegreville and farmed there until 1967. They had

three children: Emily (Andrews) of South Dakota, Victor Phillips who farms near the home place with his wife Mary Ambrosie, and their three children, and Ernie Phillips who farms on the home place.

John Phillips died September 30, 1979. Nancy still lives in Vegreville, but likes to return to the farm to visit and help out there.



William and Malania Phillips, 1903.



William and Malania and their new home made of straw, mud, and logs, 1909.



Orchestra (l. to r.) — Bill O. Fedoruk, Metro Wandyka, John Rizun, Harry Rizun, 1915.



Rumely tractor; John Phillips working on it, 1924.



Moskalyk Ukrainian Catholic church — built in 1928, six miles east of Mundare.



Vegreville Jubilee parade, 1927.



A snowmobile — John Phillips' invention, 1932.



Wild oats grain cleaner, invented by John W. Phillips, 1949.

Pidruchney, William Nicholas

An Ethelbert, Manitoba youth was writing his final, Faculty of Agriculture, examinations in The Winnipeg University when he was notified that a Government of Alberta official was waiting in the Students' Lounge to interview him.

Such notification was almost unbelievable to a Ukrainian-Canadian boy who had spaced his University education with farm work, two-year terms of schoolteaching and farm-product payments.

For this final year his grandfather had lent him one hundred dollars. To supplement his physical food-intake requirements, he made sure he qualified for the Hockey and later, the University Rugby team. The University table was not sufficient for pioneer-farm boys. His friends existed on an extra two dimes a week; one for a quart of milk and one for a loaf of bread.

The Athletic Image cost him time on such school committees as Room-representative on the University News, Social Activities, and Sports' Executive.

He was hoping for an appointment in a High School to teach Science, where Agriculture was not taught in those days. Their fathers had brought the Canadian forests into grain production without the aid of a formal education. They themselves had apprenticed on the land. Animals were a side-line, cultivation of which depended on the success of the grain yields. Sometimes he wondered why he had elected to study in Agriculture.

Mr. Fred Newcombe, from the Vegreville Dept. of Extension in Agriculture, hired the bilingual graduate to serve under himself, in the predominantly Ukrainian districts around Vegreville.

On April 1st, 1926, William N. Pidruchney registered at the Alberta Hotel, took charge of a gov't-owned Touring Ford and a camera; and reported for duty to Mr. Fred Newcombe.

There was much to learn about the vagaries of our weather in relation to the dirt roads and cars, say nothing about flat tires and measurement of the gas gauge to the uphill-downhill terrain. He had measured his school-teaching miles on the bicycle, where he could leave the machine in the bush when it rained, to call for it next Saturday on his way to town.

The district schoolteachers, Michael Luchkovich, Peter Wasylyshyn, Elia Kiriak, Michael Hryhorowich and Volodymyr Kupchenko and others felt bereaved when they found out that their "University Graduate" pal could not afford to live in hotel-style on his \$150. monthly salary and they could not designate his room as a weekend meeting-place.

The "Wheat Pool" man, Adam Babuik, suggested that they try sharing a private bedroom with cooking facilities for that winter.

D. A. Pidruchney recommended a bilingual-Ukrainian young woman from Winnipeg for a new post in the Agricultural Extension Department. Miss Hanka Romanchych pioneered thirty years of "The Women's Section" of The Agricultural (Exhibitions) Fairs. Home Economists followed and enlarged on that basic program in later years.

In the summer of 1927 William Pidruchney invited his step-father, Mr. Fred Podialuk, from Ukraine, Ethelbert, Manitoba, to visit Vegreville and



The William N. Pidruchney Family. Left to right — Auvreillia, Lillian, William T., Zenovia. Sitting — Mr. Wm. Pidruchney, Myroslawa, Mrs. Anna Pidruchney. Approximately 1950.

inspect a half-section of land (now Agricultural Research Station) which he might buy and bring the family nearer to a town and school. Four of the elder Podialuks (Dmetro, Mary, Pearl and Elias) were practising-schoolteachers in Manitoba. They could get schools in Alberta and take on the payment of the bank loan necessary to purchase.

April of 1928 saw Fred and Anastasia Podialuk registering their five younger children in school and cultivating their newly-acquired half-section. Every weekend the four teachers would come “home” to help. They travelled from Morecambe, Beauvallon, Hairy Hill and Two Hills, planning their trip with Dmetro, who owned a car. Every last Sunday in the month would host a meeting of the four teachers with William and Father Podialuk, and every Monday following D. A. Pidruchney would “square things up” at the bank.

At this same time William Pidruchney came across a quarter-section of raw land four miles north of town and just east of himself, as an experimental and hobby exercise. (Sold by estate to Lloyd Kostash (chuk) in -65.)

In anticipation of his marriage to a Saskatchewan (Prelate) schoolteacher, Miss Anna Raychyba, William hunted for a house. Apparently, homes were being sold for non-payment of taxes because Mr. Dutka, manager of The Alberta Hotel, bought the Monkman brothers’ “West Half” of a duplex for \$600.

He resold it to D. A. Pidruchney for \$1200. to be paid off at \$50 a month. At this date (Mrs. Wm.) Anna Pidruchney owns and upkeepes it herself and has planted it to a great variety of local and exotic trees and shrubbery.

D. A. Pidruchney was transferred to Willingdon in 1931 and Smoky Lake in 1937; then back to Vegreville in 1944. He died in Nov. 23, 1959.

He was highly esteemed by the farm population as by the community. History records many “Firsts” in his career. The Purebred Bull and The Registered Stallion were policies sketched out by him, as he organized “Rings” to rotate these government-owned animals among the cashless society of the ’30s. He organized the young people into clubs (grain, animal and judging) which are perpetuated in the 4H Clubs of today. He organized the first “Farmers” tour of the Canadian National Agricultural Exhibition to Toronto, where they watched their samples win National ribbons. He was active in School, Hospital and Curling Rink Boards.

Mr. and Mrs. William N. Pidruchney raised a family of five children; Lillian Iris, William Theodore, Zenovia Yvonne, Auvreillia Rose and Myroslawa Victoria.

The family were prominent in their St. Volodymyr Ukrainian Orthodox Church which they organized. All grew up through community organizations such as Guides, Scouts, School sports, School Festivals, Music Degrees and Career Degrees.

Mrs. Pidruchney was an organizer and long-time member of The Ukrainian Women’s Association of Canada, The I.O.D.E., The Handicraft Guild and



The Monkman Duplex, 1928. (5108-51st Ave.). (The Doctor had been killed in the war; his wife had died previously. The dentist lived in the east half with his family of five children and wife, until the second war.) Mr. Pidruchney offered to paint Dr. Monkman’s half so he could make some money to paint his half.



First, second and third prize ponies at Vegreville Exhibition. Mr. Atkinson — Director, and Mr. Wm. Pidruchney — district agriculturist, 1943.

The Curling Association. A teacher before her marriage, she went back into teaching after her husband's passing, in the Junior High System.

Retired in 1975, Mrs. Pidruchney still substitutes in school; writes stories (family history); has won acclaim for her painting; and homesteads in High Level in the summers. She enjoys good health and lends a community hand by teaching and translating in Ukrainian in private tutoring.

Plouffe Family

Plouffes are descendants of Jean Blouf who migrated from France in 1665 and worked as shoemaker for Seigneur Charles Lemoyne at Ville Marie (now Montreal).

Parents of local Plouffes were Adelard Plouffe, born 1869, and Angelina Bienvenu, born 1874. They came to Vegreville in 1916; bought land now owned by Ernest Rempis (Old Vegreville district). They had eleven living children. Mr. Plouffe (pere) died in 1918; Mrs. Plouffe died in 1969 at the grand age of 95.

At Vegreville the family worked at mixed farming and life was hard for them, especially when the Depression hit. In 1930, most of the family moved north to homestead at Iron River. Armand and Wilfred, the oldest boys, twins, remained in Vegreville and worked here; Wilfred was the handyman at the Sisters' Convent for many years; Armand worked mainly in the same capacity at the hospital, where Wilfred and both their wives also worked later. Wilfred, born 1899, married Eva Morneau in 1926; lived at 5322-43 St.; raised their family here: Adelard, Leonard, Alice, Marcel, Noella, Jeanette, George, and Emile, none of whom live in Vegreville now. Wilfred and Eva retired to Edmonton about 1973.



Bernie Plouffe and family, 1966. Back row — Bertha, Lorraine, Helen. Front row — Bernard, Adelle, David.

Armand, born 1899, married Emily Morneau in 1928; had two children: Oscar, who married Lorna Johnston, and Frances who married Keith Cowan. Armand and Emily lived at 5314-43 St. for many years. Emily died in 1965 and Armand in 1968.

Bernard Plouffe was born in 1918 and lived his early life on the farm west of town but moved north for a few years. He returned to this area in 1938; his first job was at Miss Black's little farm; then he worked as orderly and handyman at St. Joseph's hospital. Although called to the army in 1940, he was "frozen" to the hospital job, and continued training in the Home Guard. In 1941 he married Adelle Katzel



Stan and Helen (Plouffe) Rothenburger with children Darren, Brent, Kevin, Todd, Marla and Mark. 1974.

and they settled at the corner of 43 St. and 54a Ave. where they recently built a new home. Bernard began in 1944 as an apprentice mechanic at George Black's garage, and thereafter he continued in that line at several shops in town, meanwhile earning his papers and the reputation of an excellent mechanic. In 1958 he started in business with Albert Paquette at the North End Service at the corner of 53 Ave. and Main St. Closing the business in 1978, Bernard is now employed as Town Mechanic for Vegreville.



Vernon and Bertha (Plouffe) Steil with children Tammy, Raymond, and Derek, 1974.



David and Terri Plouffe with daughter Christine, 1974.



Allan and Lorraine (Plouffe) Mallock with children Michael and Laurie Ann, and cousin Marla, 1974.

The family of Bernard and Adelle:

1. Helen, married Stan Rothenburger; he owns Stan's Western Shop and Helen works as an insurance agent. They live on the former Henry Ziegler farm with their children: Brent, Kevin, Todd, Darren, Mark, and Marla.

2. Bertha, married Vernon Steil, a trucker; live next door to her parents with their children: Raymond, Tammy, Derek, and Grant.

3. Lorraine, married Allan Mallock, trucker, and they live at Fork Lake with children Michael and Laurie Ann.

4. David, married Terry Lainchbury, and they live at Wainwright where he is a carpenter; children: Christine and Gordon.

Porayko, Elias and Stella

A history of the Ukrainian people of the early years in the town of Vegreville, Alberta, and vicinity, cannot be reviewed without mentioning one of its first educators closely associated with its cultural activities.

Elias Porayko was born in Tulowa, Sniatyn, in Western Ukraine in 1896. In 1914 he arrived with his parents, Wasyl and Olena Porayko, and his brother, Nykola, at the home of his sister, Parania Svarich, in Vegreville. To supplement his high school education (gymnasium, fifth form) and to advance his knowledge of English, he enrolled in the English School for Foreigners. This school, which operated for several years, was organized to help older students who had come to Canada with high scholastic standing but little knowledge of the English language.

Later, Elias attended the local high school and, at the same time, worked as a clerk in the National Co-operative store which was, at the time, under the management of his brother-in-law, Andrew Svarich.

During the depression years which followed

World War I, business was bad and the National Co-operative went bankrupt, as did many other businesses. Undaunted, and confident that his business experience would stand him in good stead, Elias formed a mercantile partnership with his brother, Nick, and Andrew Svarich. Unfortunately, the firm met a similar fate in the great depression of (1930) the "Dirty Thirties".

In the summer of 1919, Elias married Stacia (Stella) Melnyk, daughter of Ivan and Anna Melnyk of Star (Edna), Alberta. She was born in 1899, the year following her parent's arrival in Canada. She took her early schooling in the rural schools of Limestone Lake, and Beaver Creek, and high school in Vegreville, concluding it in June, 1917, at Victoria High School in Edmonton. During the summer months she taught "on permit" in Bohdan, Myrnam, and Brody schools. After attending Normal School at Camrose, Alberta in 1918, she taught at Myroslaw School till her marriage to Elias.

Stella's interest and ambition paralleled those of her husband. She was a natural helpmate in the many aspects of his chosen life-work as teacher, choir conductor, and drama director. In the early years of their married life, winter evenings were never too long. There were endless play rehearsals, choral singing, and concert practices in the National Hall where Elias also taught Ukrainian school.

The main cultural event of the year in Vegreville was a concert, given in March, to commemorate the birth of the Ukrainian patriot-poet, Taras Shevchenko. The program consisted largely of Shevchenko's poems which had been set to music. It was Elias's and Stella's responsibility to train the choir and to supervise the reciting of Shevchenko's poems. Stella, herself, was always on the program reciting one of these poems — a pleasure which she enjoys to the present day.

Elias was intensely interested in band music. He was the first Ukrainian to join the Vegreville Elks Band when it was organized in early 1920's, with Harry Ragan as director. When Ragan moved from Vegreville, Elias became the director of the band of which, by this time, the majority were Ukrainian boys.

In 1934, Elias and Stella moved to Hilliard, Alberta, where he managed the Alberta Lumber Company store. Immediately, they entered fully into the town's community activities. Stella became active in the women's organizations as secretary and taught children singing and Ukrainian dances. Elias organized a choir and the Hilliard Band. This band supplied music to surrounding towns of Smoky Lake, Andrew, and Bruderheim at local picnics, sports days, or national festivals. On occasion, the

band combined with the Vegreville Elks Band to honour Dominion Day celebrations at the Vegreville Exhibition or Bruce Stampede.

For Elias, an opportunity to realize his life's dream came with the building, in 1934, of the Ukrainian Greek-Orthodox Church of St. Vladymir in Vegreville. From numerous sacred compositions and variations, he selected, assembled, and hand-copied compositions of the Divine Liturgy for the church choir. This enabled those who later took his place as choir conductor to follow the score of church music with confidence. To this day, the Vegreville choir sings compositions just as they were chosen, arranged, taught, and conducted by Elias Porayko.

In 1940, the Alberta Lumber company sold its business in Hilliard and moved Elias to Andrew, Alberta, as assistant-manager in a similar store. Besides organizing a choir in Andrew, he laid the groundwork of a youth organization (as he had done in Vegreville in 1931) — an organization later to be known as the Association of Ukrainian Youth of Canada, popularly called SUMK.

Elias and Stella had two children: Vera and Nestor, both musically inclined. Vera obtained ATCM standing in piano, and Nestor grade 5 in piano. Vera took her high school in Vegreville and Andrew and her Normal School training in Edmonton in 1941-42. For a time she taught school. Then, after taking a business course at Alberta College, she was employed as a stenographer by the Canadian Pacific Airlines until her marriage in 1946, to Leon Roy, a printer with the Edmonton Journal. They moved to Yakima, Washington, in 1956, and are presently residing in Wenatchee, Wash., where Leon is employed with The Craftsman Incorporated. They have three children.

Nestor Lev Elias Porayko took his schooling in Vegreville, Hilliard, and Andrew. While completing his high school education at Victoria High School in Edmonton, he worked after school hours for the Edmonton Public Library, the Northern Hardware, and drove a taxi. After graduating, he obtained employment with the Department of Transport (Meteorological Branch) and stayed there until 1954, at which time he joined the Imperial Oil Refinery where he is still employed. Nestor is married and has four sons and one daughter.

Elias died suddenly of heart failure in Andrew on July 12, 1941, on the morning of Andrew's Church Patron Saint's Day. (St. Peter and St. Paul)

After the death of her husband, Stella moved to Edmonton and was employed with the Department of Municipal Affairs from 1942 to 1955. In Edmonton, she became a member of the Ukrainian Women's Association of Canada and served on its Provincial

Executive as corresponding secretary from 1942 to 1946, from which position she resigned because of ill health. As its delegate, she attended the first Ukrainian Canadian Committee convention in Winnipeg in 1943. She was a member of the Ukrainian Greek-Orthodox Parish of St. John, M. Hrushewsky (now St. John's) Institute, Benevolent Club and the Ukrainian Fraternal Society of Canada until she moved to Vegreville.

In 1955, Stella married Andrew Svarich of Vegreville. Both Stella and Andrew are members of the Ukrainian Greek-Orthodox Church of St. Vladimir in Vegreville, St. John's Institute in Edmonton, the P. Mohyla Institute in Saskatoon, Ukrainian Self-Reliance League St. Andrew's College of Winnipeg, Ukrainian Canadian Committee, and the Ukrainian Pioneers' Association of Alberta. A shareholder in the publishing firm, **Ukrainian Voice**, Andrew was also a member of the Order of St. Andrew in Winnipeg, and a life member of the Vegreville Chamber of Commerce. He retired from his business as dealer of Watkin's Products in 1971. Andrew Svarich died May 23, 1977.

Re-compiled by Bill Kostash, 1973

Porozni, John and Anne

by John Porozni

Our parents, who were of Romanian descent, emigrated to Canada from Bukovina (Austria) in the year of 1899. My parents homesteaded in the Whitford area (Willingdon) while my wife's parents settled a few miles away in the Soda Lake (Hairy Hill) area. I was born in 1903 and had only a limited amount of schooling as the local school, Boian Mare, was built in 1912.

For the first few years the school did not operate during the winter months and classes were conducted only during the summer months.

By 1914, I had started my farming career by walking bare-footed behind four harrows which were pulled by three horses. In 1917, I graduated to a walking plow pulled by four horses which was used to break prairie sod on the land that I homesteaded on. In 1923, I left home and worked for five months on a farm near Davidson, Saskatchewan. The learning experience that I gained while working on this farm had a profound impact on me which changed my views on the farming procedures I had known up to that time.

In the summer of 1924, I went to work on Vancouver Island at a Pulp and Paper Mill which employed 300 Japanese workers and five of us of Caucasian origin. During this period I realized how homesick I was for the wide open prairies, the gently



The John Porozni Master Farm Family, 1951.

waving wheat fields and everything else connected with farming. So I returned home and farmed with my father.

In those early years before the village of Willingdon came into being, and before the railway line was built, we would haul our grain to the elevators in Vegreville, Alberta. The forty-eight-mile round-trip took two days to complete and the trip was made during the winter months. Those were the days when there was no grain price forecast and no weather forecast to decide when was the best time to make this trip.

Each year, just before the spring break-up, we would haul firewood, logs, lumber and fence posts from the Bellis area. In order to travel the approximately fifteen miles to the tree location, cut the trees, load them on the sleigh and drive back home, it was necessary to be on the road for up to fifteen straight hours.

In 1926, I married Anne Svekla and we continued our farming venture together. We both remember that in 1927 when we built our first home I had to cut down a small patch of standing grain which was just large enough to make room for our sixteen-foot by twenty-foot log house. We later built a barn which had separate stalls for two cows, a few horses and some chickens. Although that first year was a cold winter, the barn was warm enough that the chickens were able to lay eggs. Since there was no such thing as electrical power on the farm in those days, coal oil lamps and coal oil lanterns were standard items for our farm.

In 1930 we expanded our farming operations and bought another quarter-section of land and more machinery, purchased on the credit plan. From 1932 to the present time we have kept a record of our farm income and expense transactions. During the 1930's when the depression was at its lowest ebb, here are some of the prices we received for our produce:



John Porozni's purebred Hereford bulls on feed, 1951.

- (1) Eighty bushels of wheat for \$14.14, which is approximately 18¢ a bushel.
- (2) 2000 bushels of number 2 C.W. oats for \$140.00, the freight and handling charges were 11 ⅜¢ a bushel and our share was 7¢ a bushel.
- (3) 6 hogs were sold for \$38.50.
- (4) One calf was sold for \$6.00 at 3¢ a pound.
- (5) Sold 5 gallons of cream for \$1.65.
- (6) Sold 12 dozen eggs for 91¢ (about the price of one dozen today!) and so on.

By 1936, the grain, livestock and poultry prices improved and we began paying off our farm debts. As the farming outlook kept improving, we continued to purchase more land and bigger machinery. In 1940, we purchased our first rubber-tired tractor and gradually continued the trend towards power machinery.

In 1946, electrical power was introduced into our farming area. Not only did this help improve our farming techniques, but it also improved our standard of living. Instead of walking around the yard or farm buildings on a cold winter night with a lantern that kept blowing out whenever it got too windy, all we had to do now was simply flip a switch and the lights were on.

Our farming enterprise was registered under the name of Willingdon Stock and Seed Farm. Without the unselfish help received from my wife and our children, the following achievements would not have been attained:

Raising pure-bred Yorkshire hogs and entering them in the 1938 Edmonton Fall Show.

Since the year 1946, we commenced raising and selling pure-bred Hereford Cattle. Our registered bulls and cows were entered at numerous competitive

shows held in Edmonton, Calgary, Lethbridge, Lacombe, Lloydminster and St. Paul. We have also sold breeding stock to Russian buyers for five years and one year sold stock to German, Polish and Czechoslovakian buyers.

Our son, Willis, who is carrying on the family tradition as a farmer, has sold pure-bred Hereford bulls to buyers in the state of Oregon, U.S.A. for the last six consecutive years. However, in 1951, an award that we received which made all of us proud was the "Master Farm Family Award" for the north-east region of Alberta.

My wife and I served on many boards and committees over the years.

(a) I was the initial president of the Agricultural Society of Willingdon in 1942 and held that position for ten years. I am presently a honorary director of this Society.

(b) I was the first president of the Willingdon Seed Cleaning Plant during its construction period.

(c) Between the years of 1946 to 1973, I served on the Agricultural Service Board in the County of Two Hills.

(d) For sixteen years I was a trustee and Chairman of the Boian Marea School District.

(e) I was a president, treasurer and presently a director of the Greek Orthodox Church at Boian Marea.

(f) During the war years I served on the War Times Prices and Trade Board for the Willingdon district.

(g) I was a leader of the local 4-H Club.

(h) I was a director of the Willingdon Recreation Centre.

My wife has also been active in many community activities, some of which are: F.W.U.A. (Farm Women's Organization), I.O.D.E., Home and School Association, Red Cross, Ladies' Church Clubs, Ladies' Auxiliary of Willingdon Recreation Centre.

We retired in 1977 and presently live in our new home in Vegreville, Alberta. Although Willingdon has been our home town from 1927 (when it came into existence) until 1977, we have always had close contacts and attachments with Vegreville as it's always been a larger center and had been our hometown previous to 1927.

We are proud parents of four boys and one daughter. Nicholas is the A.M.A. Manager, C.N.C.P. Telecommunications in Edmonton; Willis is a farmer in Willingdon; George is a professor at the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg; Robert is a pharmacist and owns his own store in St. Paul, Alberta; Betty Anne

is farming in Willingdon. We also have thirteen grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

We still enjoy the farm life and quite often we like assisting our son or daughter with their farm operations.

Poulin, Arthur and Celina **by Peggy Tetreau**

Arthur Poulin, third son of Joseph Sr. and Praxede (Dubuc) Poulin, was born in Kansas in 1888. He was only six years old when he and his family moved to Alberta, and became one of the first settlers in Vegreville in 1894.

When Arthur was just a boy it was his job to go out on horseback and make sure the grazing cattle didn't wander too far from the rest of the herd. One day a bad snow storm came up while he was looking for some truant cows. The snow was falling so thick he couldn't see which direction he was going, and it was also covering up all tracks as soon as he or the cows made them. He wandered around, lost on his horse for three days; eating only the few wild berries he could find, and some snow for water to keep alive. Finally, while dozing on top of his horse, the horse using its own sense, found its way home. Meanwhile, the family at home were worried sick. Search parties looked for him, but didn't dare to go too far for fear they would also be lost in the storm. Needless to say, they had almost given up hope.



Arthur Poulin with his two sons Louis and Joe, 1921.



Celina Poulin with her sons Louis and Joe, 1922.

Florence told me of the time when her dad, Arthur, was 18 years old and he and his parents were visiting his uncle, Henry Dubuc, for Easter. On their way home, Arthur's mother had a heart attack, and died in his arms.

Arthur Poulin married Celina Bourgette in 1916. It was wartime, and times were hard. They had a baby girl that lived a few months and then along came two sons, Louis and Joseph. Next came Florence, and then Marcel.

Arthur and Celina sold their farm and moved into town where he had a livery barn for a good many years. In 1926 he sold the livery barn to Mr. Lafleur and went homesteading at Kathleen, near Falher, for two years. Their next move was back to Vegreville to farm again, a few miles south of town. In 1950 Arthur had a heart attack and died at the age of 62. Celina is still living at the age of 84, in the Senior Citizens Home in Morinville.

Their children all live in Alberta.

Louis married the former Jean Golinowsky, and they have two children, Diane and Louise. They live in Vegreville.

Joseph married the former Irene Tetreau and at present they live on a farm north of Ranfurly. They have six children: Doris, Laurent, Arthur (who was killed in a snowmobile accident), Marie, Marilyn, and Joseph Jr.

Florence and Hargrave Brennan live in St. Albert and have four children: Carole, Elaine, Linda and Joseph.

Marcel married the former Annette Bourgette and they have one son Gregory, and are presently living in Calgary.

Poulin, Eugene

At the age of forty-four, Joseph Poulin, a Canadian living in Kansas, decided to try relocating in the opening West. So he moved, in 1894, with wife Praxede and several children, taking the train

through Winnipeg, Calgary and Edmonton. With some other compatriots and a guide they explored the land east of Edmonton, finally choosing land on the banks of Birch (Waskiwa) Creek. Poulin and Tetreau filed on the Section 34-51-15 and began to set up tents on the prairie, which was unusually bald then, a spring prairie fire having burnt through recently. On May 12, Mme. Poulin and the children arrived, literally the “first family” of Vegreville, which the group decided to call their settlement to honor a noted missionary priest.

Eugene Poulin, the oldest son, was an ingenious fellow and did much to keep the settlement going. He began soon building log shacks for homes and animal shelters; also organized construction of the first wagon-bridge across the creek; the men had to make wagons, sleighs, and other tools, etc. At the north-east corner of their land, (Mast farm now) Poulins built a large house which was used also for a stopping place for travellers for some years. In 1895, Eugene’s fiancée, Mlle. Philomene Menard came out from Kansas with the Pelletier family; Eugene



The Joseph Poulin family, 1895. Back row (l. to r.) — Eugene, Eugenie and Henri. Middle row (l. to r.) — Joseph (father), Arthur, Praxede (mom) and Arselia. Bottom (l. to r.) — Melina and Alma. Another girl Anna had not yet made her appearance.



Six Poulin sisters and sisters-in-law — Arselia, Anna, Rose Alba, Philomene, Alma and Melina. About 1950.

was married on May 11, 1895 — the first marriage in the settlement.

The Benoit Tetreaus were close friends and neighbors; soon other families came; the Dennis family (north of the French settlement) were the first English-speaking neighbors. The first teacher was M. Theodore Theroux who taught from his shack; he left to teach at Duhamel before the school was built — Vegreville Catholic Public No. 44 — on the same



Adolph and Emilia Poulin (Benoit), children of Henri Poulin and second wife Melanie Dubuc. About 1916.



First frame home of E. L. Poulin at Old Vegreville about 1906. (L. to r.) Emma, Eugene and wife Philomene, Regina, Cordilia and twins Ella and Aldea (seated on ground).

location of the present school building at Old Vegreville. The nearest post office was at Beaver Lake, so petitions were sent to Regina, then the Territorial capital, and on December 5, 1895, the first post office opened at Vegreville in the house/store of Eugene Poulin who was appointed Postmaster. Eugene was also named secretary-treasurer of the school district. Eugene helped his father to build a large barn in 1903; this stood for many years, used by Mr. Mast until it burned with tragic loss of animals.

Ella Poulin, Eugene's daughter, was born in 1899. She recalls the first fair held in the district. For the occasion, her uncle Henri had made a kind of merry-go-round turned by one horse on a sweep. Grandma Poulin, who had become quite heavy, got on to try it; all the children ran to sit beside her, and the whole contraption broke down, much to the disappointment of the youngsters.

The hamlet of Vegreville was developing nicely

around the post-office corner, when the CNR decided to lay its right-of-way to the north. A new townsite was chosen on the Vermilion River about five miles north-east of the original settlement. Soon the buildings and residents left the old corner to relocate at the present townsite. Eugene Poulin moved his house too; it later served for the caretaker's lodge at the Exhibition grounds. He built a store north of the CNR tracks which he then sold to Harry Payne. After that, Eugene worked in Clements store and he also carried mail between station and post-office (then located on Railway Ave.). He then built the family home on the north bank of the river (44 St.) in "Frenchtown" where his family grew up; sons Gene and Ed being close to the river became good skaters and hockey players. Eugene worked as cemetery caretaker until his retirement; he died in 1953, after a most busy and interesting life in the Vegreville community.



Henri Poulin and second wife, Melanie Dubuc, and little son Adolph. About 1912.

Powley, Wlass and Eva, and Family by Joyce Powley (great-granddaughter)

Pioneers, Wlass Powley (born 1845) and wife Eva came to Canada in May, 1901. They came from Brody, Konishkiw (Western Ukraine). Their cultural background is referred to as Brody. They came with five children: Anton who was married, Mike, Annie, Eva and Nancy.

They came to the new land — Canada, because of the urging of Anton and Mike.

For the good of the family, Wlass and Eva decided to emigrate to Canada. In May, 1901, they came to Edmonton where they looked for an acquaintance. They were able to buy flour and other necessities. They put the supplies on two wagons and left in search of land. After one week they got to Beaver Creek. Here they stayed and rested at the home of a settler.

After a short time, Wlass, with son Mike, found a person who knew the area and they were able to search for a homestead. After two days of search they found land in Sec. 28-51-16W4. They then returned to the rest of the family. Wlass and Mike walked to Edmonton to stake a claim. The walk was difficult because of the hordes of very hungry mosquitoes. They paid \$10 for their claim (homestead) and returned to the family. Now they were able to drive over to their farm.

First they built a house on NW 28-51-16-W4. The house was built of logs and the chinks in the walls were packed with clay and grass. The roof was thatched with sheaves of grass. All felt very happy when the home was completed. Their first neighbors were Mike Korpan and Joseph Kolodychuk, all living in the immediate area called Borschiw. The name was chosen because many of the settlers came from a village of similar name in the Ukraine.

After the house was built, Mike walked to Edmonton to find work to earn money. Anton Powley and John Rogalski went away to find work too. In the fall Mike came back with a few \$10.00's, with which he bought a cow. He also agreed to work for one farmer for \$10 a month during the winter. In the spring of 1902 Mike and Anton Powley and John Rogalski went on foot to Edmonton. From there they went to Fort Macleod where they worked on the railroad during the summer.

Anton brought two horses he had purchased from the Indians. From his summer's work Mike brought back \$80. His parents, Wlass and Eva, suggested he should find a lady and get married, as quite a few more settlers had arrived since they had left for work. On February 12, 1903, Mike married Katherine, daughter of Joseph Kolodychuk.

When spring arrived, the men left for work again, leaving the women in the hands of the Lord. The men were employed with the railway at the



Children of Mike and Katherine Powley (l. to r.) — Sid, Joe, Stanley, mother holding Mary, Peter, Emil, 1910's.

station Devonton. Here they worked for three months. Anton and John went home to make hay for the cows. Mike worked on the railroad till fall because he knew his parents would take care of hay-making.

After 1903 Mike did not go to work any more. He bought two oxen, a wagon, three harrows and a walking plow. He trained the oxen and started to plow new land. In 1904 he got two young oxen which he also trained. Now they had four animals to plow with.

More and more people arrived and the majority were from the area of Halychyna (Ukraine). The people were all very reverent. They felt their religion taught them to love and fear God, and to do good to neighbors. Neighborly love was quite apparent.

The neighbors gathered and decided that there were enough people to warrant a cemetery. Bill Kieryluk and John Kalynchuk went to Edmonton with \$10 to register the area for a cemetery consisting of four acres.

Mike Powley, Mike Korpan, Fred Babyn, George Smith and Mr. Bradley agreed to build a school which they named Moscow.

In 1905 the settlers got together to obtain logs from Beaver Hills, and started to build a church under foreman Steve Hayduk. The Basilian Fathers served the parish. Services were few and far between since there were only three Basilian Fathers available. Services were held in homes up to the time of the visit of Bishop Budka, after which time the services were held in church. Most of the families in the district were Ukrainian Greek Catholic.

Mike Powley demanded roads. The first councillor was Mr. Nelson; he was followed by Mike Powley. Gradually country roads were developed and maintained.

In 1934 the settlers built a hall near the church and named it St. Michael's Greek Catholic Parish Hall. The building committee consisted of Mike Powley, Chairman, and Mr. Taranti, Director.

Wlass was ill for a year. He passed away on March, 31, 1910. The sons and daughters buried their father in the Borschiw cemetery. Before his death, Wlass had bought a church bell, his donation and contribution to the parish. When the bell tolled, his children would be reminded of their father whose voice was answering. Wlass' wife, Eva, passed away in September, 1931, at 81 years of age. Then the sons and daughters were left to build their own future. All were married between the years 1929 and 1964.

In Anton's family there were thirteen children, six sons and seven daughters: John, Mike, Bill, Max, Nick, Steve, Helen, Mary, Annie, Nancy, Jean, Pearl, and Lena.



Mike Powley's sons (l. to r.) — Pete, Emil and Sid. About 1920.

Mike's children were six sons and two daughters: Peter, Emil, Sydor, Joe, Stan, Jack, Mary and Olga.

Annie (Yacie) had two children: son John and daughter Mary.

Eva (Rogalski) had four sons and four daughters: Bill, Mike, Anton, Harry, Mary, Nancy, Annie, and Katie.

Nancy (Zaseybida) had four sons and one daughter: John, Bill, Harry, Peter, and Mary.

Grandfather Mike Powley passed away in April, 1964, and Grandmother Katherine left to be with the Lord in August, 1968.

Pugh Family by Mildred (Pugh)

Warwick — my home of sixteen years.

My Dad and Mother brought us here from Claremont, Ontario, in 1916. As I was only four months old at the time, I don't remember any part of the trip, but I've been back twice since and met cousins upon cousins and saw the farm my dad had. He kept sheep there, among other things. He brought the ear tags out to Alberta and they stayed in the secretary at home. I believe they had a number on them. My brother David was eleven at the time and must have helped look after the sheep, for, as the story goes, the ram sent him flying for the fence a few times.

We lived in a shack (I suppose you'd call it) for about four years until our house was built. It was a T.



The Pugh Family, Warwick, 1930. Back row (l. to r.) — David, Mildred, Dorothy, Beatrice. Front row — Judson, Phyllis.

Eaton house which cost \$1000 and you can still see it standing after 64 years. By the way, the shack is part of the garage now — it was where we ground the grain for the pigs.

David spent a couple of terms at Vermilion Agricultural School and must have acquired a taste for horticulture for he planted the wind-break west of the house. The spruce we called “Christmas Trees”.

The land my Dad bought was not a homestead — it had belonged to someone else, but the name escapes me now, but I do remember we referred to the west quarter as the Cobb Place. Straight north of the house, all the way to the north side was a strip of plowing about twelve feet wide. I remember being curious about that, and found out it was a fireguard. It was on the way to the garden so it got pondered over quite frequently.

The weather, then as now, played its part. I must have been six or seven. Dad and Ma were standing on the stairs looking out the hall window. I was there, too — I could just look out. It was morning. Our field of oats east of the house had been stricken by frost the night before — it was all white. They were appalled by the sight.

Another time in the dirty thirties we had one of many dust storms. The wind blew one of Dad’s granaries over and over. It was one he had just built from flooring — it wasn’t damaged, luckily. And the hay rack went scooting down across the barnyard, the tongue ploughing a furrow as it went. The dust in the house was thick on the window sills, it would get on the milk in the cupboard — you could feel it grit on the linoleum. Clean it up, and it would be there again. Once we got a rain. First a cloud of dust rose in the west — it was black — then the rain came — you could smell it coming. It must have been earlier than the 1930’s that we had some real bell-ringers of thunderstorms. It seemed like once they started they would last for three days for sure.

When I was in the elementary grades at school,



Pugh's threshing machine, 1930.



Home of Levi and Libbie Pugh, Warwick, built about 1916. Bought from T. Eaton's for \$1,000.00 and shipped out West.



Aultman Taylor steam engine, owned by David Pugh family, 1979.

the District Agriculturist in Vegreville started School Fairs. We got the seeds at school and planted them at home. My first garden surprised me. It was about ten feet by fifteen feet or thereabouts. But what surprised and thrilled me most was my bed of petunias. They were purple, and purple with white stripes. I won prizes, too, even for my pan of dried peas, and when the morning of the Fair came, Dad was out at the

pump washing my vegetables — which I had not thought of and took me and them in the buggy all the way to Vegreville. The next year I had learned to knit and won a prize for my doll's scarf, red with white fringes, which I kept for years after.

Our first threshing was done by a steam outfit that did jobs around the district. You could hear the whistle blow early in the frosty mornings. The owner of the outfit had a red truck — it was small with no doors. One day my sister Beatrice and I were on our way to school when this man came along and offered us a ride. We got in, but I was quite leery of sitting there with no doors to hold us in.

A few years later I was informed by a girl with whom I walked home, something about the “Big Ten”. That was news to me, but what she referred to was the threshing outfit my Dad had an interest in — he and nine other farmers. But the “Big Ten” never threshed for this girl's father and I guess they were sort of jealous or something.

It was a big machine — the engine was an Aultman Taylor and it made one proud just to hear it booming away — except when the grain was tough and then the straw came out in chunks instead of light and feathery. Ma had passed away by then so Beatrice and I were the cooks. Mrs. Bednall, long gone too, came over — I thought it was quite generous of her, and she helped us cook for the threshers and Mrs. McKenzie helped too. She initiated us in the pie-making business. Our table stretched from one end of the kitchen to the other. I believe there were fourteen teams and two field pitchers besides the engineer and separator man. A shed was built for the separator outfit on our farm and lasted until the last ten years or so. The outfit still is there and Willis Carter had the engine running in 1977.



The Pughs enjoying their home skating rink, 1960.

The roads by Dad's farm were still trails when I started school. It seems hard to realize that now, but they still aren't paved. I remember the buck brush on the road just east of the house, and the tracks going through it. Also, the silver willows with their little yellow blooms and the little puffy grey seed pods. One day on the way home from school all the Dads were out with their teams of four horses and the slips with the long handles and digging up our road. There was also a sort of road leveller about a foot high that they used. Later they had a grader that was pulled by eight horses — two men sat on top — one driving and the other turning wheels that adjusted the blade below.

Dad always had a car. First was a Model T. Touring car. At that time the lights were carbide and curtains on the sides had mica windows in them. I remember chipping little pieces off and nearly cutting my fingers. David always drove and I sat on Dad's lap in the front. Next we got a Gray Dort. It was bigger and better, but by 1927 we had a new Dodge. The first drive we took in it Dad was turning the corner, but he wasn't used to the steering and we went in the ditch. It got quite a few miles put on it, but it lasted through the dirty thirties and the war and until 1949 when he left us.

The years really seem short when you look back. Fourteen years seems like forever when you're a child, but that was how long Ma lived in Alberta after leaving Ontario. Not long. Now my two granddaughters are thinking about getting married.

I have one school friend that I've corresponded with — Margaret McFarlane — in Victoria. Another, Kathleen McKenzie died from a heart attack quite a few years ago. Time passes on!

Pugh, Levi John

by Phyllis Merkel

This is a small part of our family tree for the guidance of present and future generations to list the many descendants of Hugh Pugh of Wales. During the 1840's several families, bound together by family relationships, common religious beliefs, and a desire to be the owner of their own land, emigrated from Radnorshire Wales, to Upper Canada, and settled mostly in Pickering Township. The head of one of these families was Hugh Pugh. One son William had already come to Canada in 1835 to do Canal work. They heard from him regularly for a while, then the letters stopped and another son came to look for him, with no results. The great depression existing in the early forties in the Mother Country, Great Britain, also influenced many to seek new homes in the new land of hope, America. Then in Wales all farms were held in lease, and could not be owned. The Gentry



Picture taken at old Fairwood School about 1928. Back row (l. to r.) — Mildred Pugh, Mary Cherniawski, Margaret McFarlane, Kathleen McKenzie, Mike Lupul, Mary Lupul, Steve Mihalcheon, Sergay ?, unknown. Front row (l. to r.) — Barbara McFarlane, Mary McFarlane, Annie Lupul, Aileen Woods, Phyllis Pugh, unknown, Robert McFarlane, unknown, Judson Pugh, Douglas Van Wolkingburg, Douglas McKenzie.

had the right to hunt over fields without recompensing the farmer. Taxes had to be paid to support the State church, though you were not a member of the established Church of England.

Hugh Pugh was born March 15, 1777, in the Parish of Llanbadarn Fynydd in the County of Radnor, Wales, about ten miles from Newton. He was married Feb. 1805, to Elizabeth Williams, born May 21, 1787, also in Radnor County, Wales. They emigrated from Wales with their 13 children and other families, coming by sailboat, taking six or seven weeks to the Port of New York. On this trip one son lost his wife and baby from cholera. They were buried at sea, since there was no cold storage in those days.

From New York they took a fast steamer 150 miles up the Hudson River to Albany; from there they went west 250 miles by the Erie Canal to Rochester. The journey was completed by boat across Lake Ontario, and then by horse and wagon about 14 miles to Pickering Township. Cattle and oxen had to walk this part of the journey. Hugh Pugh bought land from Chancey Reynolds at North ½ Lot 26 Concession 4 Pickering Twp. one mile east of Whitevale. They called their farm Pennybank after their home they had left in Wales. This farm is still occupied by one of their descendants. Today descendants of these children may be found all over America and I believe some in Australia.

The majority of these families belonged to the Agricultural class; however, these early and heroic people were blessed with indomitable courage and high ideals and had they left their religion and faith behind them the history of Canada might have been quite different. These people were by no means pen-

niless immigrants. They had all been prosperous farmers in Wales and brought gold coin in their money belts. Among the belongings they brought were attractive chinaware, a few brass and pewter vessels, a fine red Welsh riding habit, and the works of a grandfather's clock. These were packed in a very heavy English oak chest. They were above average in education for that time; with few exceptions, all could read and write. Many doctors, lawyers, school teachers and church leaders are among their descendants.

The settler's life was a toilsome one, cutting down trees, logging and burning and cultivating the soil. Still their lives had wholesome joys and elements which tended to develop strong and true character.

It was in the 1830's that Pickering Twp. received its first large influx of settlers. Then began the formal building and maintenance of schools and churches. Hugh Pugh and his wife were both members of Maeryshelem Baptist Church in Wales and he and his sons did much in starting a new Baptist Church in their new home. The township's population grew from 180 people in 1809 to 3,752 in 1842, and by 1850 there were 6,385 people with 18 schools, 7 grist mills, 27 sawmills, stores, hotels and a tannery. In 1855 Whitby became the county town of Ontario County. In 1851 control of Postal affairs was entrusted to Canadian Parliament and a 3¢ rate, with use of postage stamps, was introduced. The period



By Pugh home — Phyllis, Judson and adopted stray dog, about 1928.



Levi Pugh, Judson Pugh and collyie, about 1924.

1850-1860 was one of Canada's earliest booms; farms were rapidly cleared and improved, prices were good, and settlers were prosperous and hopeful. In 1856 Grand Trunk Railroad was built near the shore of Lake Ontario, westward to Toronto. Commerce increased, timber and grain were exported, and clothing and merchandise imported. These heroic forefathers labored until the wilderness was transformed into productive farms, always being very faithful workers of the church. Hugh Pugh and his wife Elizabeth are buried in the Claremont Baptist burial ground.

Levi J. Pugh, son of Edward Pugh, son of David Pugh who was the son of Hugh Pugh, was born near Claremont, Ontario. There he was educated and grew up, marrying Elizabeth White. They farmed there until 1916 when they came west with their four children — David, Dorothy, Beatrice and Mildred. Elizabeth's brother George had already settled and wrote letters coaxing them to come West where the wheat flowed in the wind like gold. They brought a carload of machinery, animals, furniture amongst all their belongings. They also had an old Ford car. They settled on the south-east quarter section 4, range 14,

Twp. 54, living in a temporary house for a couple of years and building a two-storey frame house which they had ordered from the T. Eaton Co. In 1918 Phyllis was born, and in 1920 Judson. George White, Libbie's brother, had settled across the road. We attended the Fairwood School with teachers, Mr. McQuillan, Mrs. Milo Ferguson, Vi Hayter and others. Driving up to Old Hairy Hill Baptist Church on Sundays was fun and I remember Rev. Don Campbell and some of our many friends coming home for Sunday dinner and sing-songs around the piano.

Further education was attained at Vegreville High School, Camrose Normal School, Edmonton and Vermilion School of Agriculture. We lost our mother in 1929 and our brother Judson in 1939. Gradually the family left to marry or went to teach school, etc.

David married Ethel York and lived on the home place till he died on June 11, 1976. Now, Gordon, the youngest son and his mother Ethel live there, running the farm. Edward had passed away two years before his father David.

Dorothy, a school teacher, married Malcolm McCallum of Beaver Lake and raised a family of three, Bruce, Margaret and Maxine. Dorothy passed away at the early age of 43.

Beatrice married Robert York and raised a family of two, Robert and Shirley.

Mildred, a school teacher, who married Joe Clacys and raised three children, Joanne, Louise and Charles, was widowed and remarried Joe Bouchard of Dapp. They are now retired and live in Edmonton.

Phyllis attended Vermilion College and married Ernest Merkel, a barber in Vegreville. They have four children — Nora (school teacher), Bonnie (stenographer), Lionel and Lloyd who are twins. Nora married Richard Craddock, a lawyer and they have David, five, Kenneth, two, and live in Sherwood Park. Bonnie married Barry Lowe, farmer at Hoosier, Sask., and they have Darren, seven, and Jennifer, five. Lionel attends U of A and Lloyd is a photographer journalist in Red Deer. The family of Levi John Pugh that have passed on may be found in the family plot of Riverside Cemetery. These are Libbie, Judson, Dorothy, Levi, and David. Edward is buried in an Edmonton cemetery.

Pusey, Margaret (Black)

Although she claims to feel only sixteen, Margaret Pusey is enjoying a well-earned retirement in Vegreville. Here she passes her busy days gardening on the Black acreage, a scenic spot on the east bank of the river on the eastern outskirts of the town. She also entertains friends, young and old, in the charming little cottage built by her sister, Mary Black, a few decades past. Margaret still drives all over Alberta,



Margaret Pusey (left) with her good friend, Margaret Brinton, 1941. The blooming crab-apple tree was one planted about 1914 by Mrs. Caleb Brinton.

generously sharing her car with oldsters unable to drive. Occasionally she resorts to plane or bus when travelling to see her son and family at Sundre, and her daughter and family in Wyoming.

Margaret was born in 1896 at Hartney, Manitoba, to Edgerton Ryerson and Maria (Carey) Black. In 1913 she went to Vermilion, Alberta, to visit her father who was working there with friends, the Telfords. Having acquired business training previously, Margaret got a job at Vermilion and stayed there for three years. Then she progressed to Edmonton where she worked for CNR and Edmonton Cold Storage before her marriage to a young Englishman, George Pusey. They moved to Calgary where their two children were born: Bernice and George, Jr. After her husband died suddenly in 1928, the young widow kept her home in Calgary, but she frequently brought her youngsters to Vegreville to visit Aunt Mary Black, and thus the family made many friends in this area. As her children matured, Margaret went back to the business world, meantime helping her sister with the care of their aged parents. In 1963 she moved permanently to Vegreville to keep company with her sister Mary, who was then in poor health.

Here Margaret soon became involved in community and church work, volunteering her expert secretarial skills to St. Martin's for several years. Today she lives a most active "retirement"; her vi-

vacuity and charm belie her years and she remains a real asset to the Vegreville scene.

Quast, Otto

Emanuel Quast, his wife Rosina and son Otto arrived at Walsh, Alberta, some time in May, 1908. Emanuel had one dollar in his pocket, however his brother-in-law was well established in the area, so that looked after any hardship. Late in 1908 he took up a homestead two miles north of Cypress Hills, but the loneliness made the decision to leave. For the next three years Emanuel sharecropped with an older man. In 1913 he filed for a one-half section, twenty miles north of Walsh, Alberta in the Schuler district. By Oct. 1924, after several crop failures, he left with Wilhelm Remin, August Brige, John Pipke and their families.

The government provided each dried-out family with two box cars, but by the time household effects, machinery and cattle were loaded there was no room



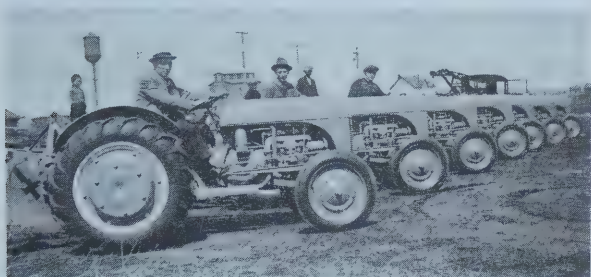
Rosina Quast spinning wool on the farm, 1931.



Otto Quast and family by 1926 Studebaker Victoria coupe.



Otto Quast in a 1922 Dodge race car, Vegreville, July 1, 1942.



Unloading Ford Ferguson tractors at C.P.R. siding for Black Motors. Otto Quast in control. About 1940.

for the horses. The four families rigged two covered wagons and drove fifty-six horses, three hundred and sixty miles, northwest to the Vegreville district. In charge was August Brige and his wife Rosina. Herd riders were Otto Quast, Rudolph Ramin, his brothers John and William. They covered twenty-five to thirty miles a day, taking turns herding the horses through the night. Good water was a problem and most times had to be paid for. All came through in good health.

Emanuel raised nine children, four boys and five girls. He left Vegreville in 1944 for Chilliwack, B.C. where in 1954 Emanuel went to his last reward. Rosina followed in 1963.

Otto Quast after leaving the farm, followed the mechanical trade at Tuck's garage in Lavoy for a number of years. Moved into Vegreville in 1937 and was employed by George Black for four years. Later went into partnership in the old Jack Cory garage. Left for Prince Rupert in 1943 to work in the shipyards until after the war. Otto owned and operated a garage for the next twelve years but for health reasons had to sell out. He was then employed by the Federal Government Department of Fisheries for seven years; he found the pay increases slow in coming and resigned as releasing engineer. He then took a job in a machine shop at a fish cannery until retiring in 1975 and moving to Duncan, B.C. Otto is married to Ida (nee Pipke). Four of their children were born in Vegreville.

Present addresses of the Emanuel Quast family: Otto Quast, Duncan, B.C.; Ida (Mrs. Charles McKenzie), Kimberley, B.C.; Reinhold (Shorty), Surrey, B.C.; Emil, Prince Rupert, B.C.; Wilhelm (Wm.), Abbotsford, B.C.; Lena (Mrs. Dan Arndt), Viking, Alberta; Elsie (Mrs. Owen Galleger), Surrey, B.C.; Hulda (Mrs. Ben Arndt), Golden Prairie, Sask.; Edna (Mrs. H. Arpe), New Westminster, B.C.

Ratray, Dave and Ruby by Ruby Ratray

Dave was born in Lavoy in March of 1915, the third child to Charles and Anne Ratray. He was educated in Lavoy. Then he went to work in the elevator business and then in the oil business. When World War II broke out he joined and served in the R.C.A.F. and went overseas.

Ruby (Durie) Ratray was born on the farm at Lavoy in April, 1922, the fourth child of Alex and Alice Durie. I took my education at Nuttborough, our country school. Then I helped my parents on the farm and worked out periodically.

Dave and I were married in May, 1947, at the Lavoy United Church by Rev. Hart Cantelon.

We farmed in the Brush Hill District and lived there till the spring of 1958, then sold the farm and moved to Viking. We had one girl and three boys: Alice, Gordon, Eric, and Raymond.

As well as grain farming, we had quite a few milch cows, hogs and poultry. We also raised pure-bred Shorthorns which everyone took a hand in looking after at home and in the show ring.

In 1969 Dave passed away after a lengthy illness of cancer. By this time Alice was finished school and was a secretary working in Edmonton. Gordon had just finished school and was a farmer. Eric and Raymond were still in school. The boys and I stayed on the place and farmed it.

In 1972 Ray and I moved into the town of Viking as Ray still had 3 years of school till he graduated.

Alice is married to John Beida and they have three children; they live in Stony Plain and John works on the oil rigs.

Gordon lives on the home farm north of Viking, is married to Nancy Johnson, and they have two children.

Eric lives in Viking, and is a farmer married to Betty Lou Golka. They have two children.

Raymond is single, worked out for a few years and then decided farming was pretty good so now is farming at Viking also.

After the family all went on their own I decided I had to do something with my time also, so went to

work at the Vialta Lodge in Viking and have enjoyed every minute of it, and am still working there.

Reid, Dr. R. M.

Reid, Dr. J. F.

by Dr. J. F. Reid and Dr. Helen Evan (Reid) Chute

For the first time in 66 years there is no Dr. Reid in Vegreville. Any assessment of the impact of an individual or a family on a community is necessarily a compound of bias, time and the times. So the history of the Reids in Vegreville is a reflection of the procession of the years, from the early New Vegreville, through the immigration years, the First World War, the Great Depression, the Second World War, and the post-war expansion. As the original settlers aged, or moved away, the demography of the town changed. The population became more fluid. Small industry moved in and transportation improved. Vegreville has taken on the many aspects of a city.

From the largest grain storage capacity between the terminals (Edmonton and Great Lakes), the mea-



Dr. R. M. Reid, in Vegreville 1912-56, was a very faithful country doctor. Adverse weather never deterred him from his work, 1950's.

sure of Vegreville's agricultural importance has shrunk to just three active grain elevators.

As Vegreville changed, so did the pattern of medical care. My father, Dr. R. Reid and his family arrived in 1912. He had graduated from Queens University in 1902, and after a year spent in New York studying obstetrics, he began practice in Ontario. Lured by the romance of frontier life and urgent appeals for doctors to service the scattered communities of the West, he moved to Lloydminster, and then six months later to Vegreville where Dr. H. S. Monkman sought a partner. With him came his wife Laura Parker Evans and his three children all under three years; Douglas Martin Reid, Robert Mills Reid Jr., and Helen Evans Reid. Dr. August Couillard who cared for the relatively large French-speaking community was already in Vegreville.

Though the town itself was small (about 600 people), the district its two hospitals served was large, extending from the Grand Trunk Line in the South indefinitely northward, and from Innisfree in the East to Chipman in the West. The hospitals were small and by today's standards pathetically simple. The Roland M. Boswell, locally known as the R.M.B. was a cottage hospital of 18 beds: it was supported by the Presbyterian Church of Canada. The General Roman Catholic Hospital of the Sisters of Charity of Evron, whose mother house was in France, had about 30 beds. Both offered most bedside nursing, facilities for obstetrics and minor surgery. The very seriously ill or those requiring major surgery were moved to Lamont or Edmonton. If they remained in Vegreville, a surgeon from one of those centres came to operate.

In 1912 what else was available? Each doctor carried his office with him in just two black bags. A small one with a stethoscope, flashlight, tongue blades, syringe and needle, a small metal pan and an alcohol lamp for sterilizing them, and some tablets of morphine, atropine and strychnine. The larger bag was for home deliveries. It held a rubber sheet, delivery forceps, alcohol, chloroform, and linen ties for the cord. Home deliveries were common in the countryside. Distance, fear of hospitals, and custom meant that many babies were delivered by midwives, or experienced grandmothers or relatives. Doctors were only called when prolonged labour or haemorrhage indicated that normal delivery was impossible.

The doctors drove the prairie trails in summer with horses and buggies, and in winter by cutter and sleigh. Drives of one to thirty miles, dodging mudholes and chopping trees to lay corduroy, were common. Destination could be a farmhouse at a location merely described as "Brush Hill" or "Soda Lake" to attend an accident or an impossible self-



Dr. R. M. Reid giving the school pupils their shots — with Nurse Black helping, 1931.

delivery. Ninety miles by sleigh in mid-winter, unusual, but this did occur. If times were hard for the settlers, they were hard for the doctors too. While part of the hardship was physical, the real pain was the pain of frustration — a compound of lack of equipment, time lost by inadequate transportation, inability to cure all illnesses and ease all suffering, and especially the sorrow at the loss of a patient who might have survived had things been different.

World War I claimed Dr. H. S. Monkman. After the war came the great flu epidemic of 1918-1919. Almost overnight Vegreville became a ghost town. The very few who ventured out on the street for some necessity covered their faces with white gauze masks.

The hospitals were full. Dobbins Hall (the Legion) had turned into a vast open ward where a pitiful handful of those still healthy cared for the sick who, had they remained at home, would have died alone. Our house became its own small hospital and soup kitchen. My mother, barely convalescent, cared for ten people sick with this plague. A kindly lady cooked great cauldrons of soup in the kitchen which was sealed off from the rest of the house. This soup she dispensed at the back door to white-masked townspeople who brought their own containers. In a sense, the whole town became a hospital.

The town doctors — there were four now: Dr. Couillard, Dr. Belanger, Dr. Knowles, and Dr. Reid, each had a car and a driver. For what was left of their eighteen-to twenty-hour days in the town, they drove through the country, snatching what sleep they could while the driver took them from bedside to bedside.

Many people died. The War and the epidemic had left no home in Vegreville untouched.

In the early years of the town of Vegreville, the merchants, insurance agents, hotel keepers, druggists, and the professional lawyers, school teachers,



Dr. Reid, Nurse Giebelhaus and Dr. Knowles by R.M.B. Hospital, 1928.

were mostly British, French or Americans. In the country, mostly Ukrainians, Germans, and Polish people became the majority both because they came in such large numbers, and because they came and they stayed, whereas the British and Americans were unwilling to face the harsh realities of climate and isolation and hard work so they moved on. By the late 20's, the change in population-mix was becoming more evident. Farm students attended school while boarding in town. The school year was patterned so summer was free for farming. These new Canadians were assuming new community roles with their new education: teachers, lawyers, businessmen, doctors, and agriculturists.

Also by this time, the livery stable had become the garage, the R.M.B. had closed, the general store had expanded and become more sophisticated.

Public Health and plumbing arrived in Vegreville together. Dr. Reid was appointed Medical Officer of Health, a thankless job guaranteed to make enemies. The M.O.H., in the only defense against contagious diseases, ordered patients isolated in a tiny isolation hospital or in a home placarded with the name of the

infectious disease. He examined school children for scabies and head lice, snooped into restaurant kitchens, inspected privies, and tested the purity of local water supplies. Forty years later, Dr. Fred Reid followed much the same road, stressing prevention rather than treatment — perhaps in a more sophisticated way, but the enemies were the same.

Vegreville had been built in a swamp. Each spring the town children sailed to high adventure on rafts made of grain doors “borrowed from the great piles stored by the elevators.” The best oceans, and the deepest, stretched south from the railroad, through Svarich’s pasture to the back of the Armouries on third avenue. Not all the privies were serviced by the town’s sanitary wagon, so inevitably each spring wells in the swamp became contaminated. Reluctant municipal wells, indifferent engineering, and slow hand-dug ditching made it years before the waterworks were in place and waterworking. The cost of adapting a house and “plumbing it” made it still longer before the next summer epidemic of infant diarrhea was controlled. Meanwhile, many babies and small children died. Isolation, aspirin, sponge baths, and sips of sugar water were frail weapons against the killers. Children died, too, from diphtheria and scarlet fever. Pasteurization of milk was unknown and many of the toxoids, vaccines, and antibiotics were decades in the future.

Along with Public Health and Plumbing came the first public health nurse, Miss Black. Diphtheria toxoid, although still not sufficiently concentrated and purified, had just become available. The still unpopular M.O.H. was determined to give it the hard sell in the community. So strong was his faith in its preventive power and its potential for eliminating a childhood killer that he insisted his own children take it first, as an example. I had survived an attack of diphtheria a few years earlier. The combination of high immunity and imperfect toxoid produced so violent a reaction that I seemed, at times, in danger of losing an arm. But the promotion worked. Most of the school children received their “shots” although many years were to pass before toxoid became universal. Most of today’s doctors will never see a case of diphtheria and might fail to recognize one if they did.

Helen Reid began the study of medicine just weeks before the stock market crash of ’29 signalled the start of the Great Depression. Vegreville had its first Ukrainian doctor, Dr. John Yakimischak, by then. Though cars were now common, not everybody had one. Roads had improved. New Canadians, having lost some of their fear of hospitals, now came to town by car or Bennett Buggy, or on the C.P.R. from the North Line, for medical help, though pover-

ty and pride too often kept them away. As the numbers on welfare increased, the transients increased. Few could pay for hospital care or doctoring.

Our father found it almost impossible to bring himself to submit a bill. Nobody had any money and so my brother went about the farms accepting a cabbage or two, perhaps a hen or some eggs, or some potatoes on account. Much of this food we dispensed at the door to the men who “rode the rails”. Our father even paid the taxes on the farm of a man who owed him a sizeable sum so that the farm would not be seized, and the farmer and his family left destitute. Helen Reid was fortunate. She managed to continue at University by working as the night operator at the local telephone exchange, as a clerk in a men’s underwear department, and on the midway at the local fairs.

The Second World War solved the problems of the Depression. Unemployment became just a painful memory as men and women joined the army or entered war-related industry. The first medical clinics appeared in Vegreville. Western Canada had always been clinic-minded; Edmonton and Lamont copied the Mayos and Vegreville copied them.

After graduation, Helen Reid had taken training at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto to become a pediatrician and had returned to Vegreville while her husband was overseas. In order to do her bit, she travelled to Edmonton daily at 4:19 A.M. to work in a pediatrician’s office and teach at the University, returning at 7:15 P.M. Thus, for the World War II years, two, or more accurately, one and one-half, Drs. Reid were in Vegreville.

Shortly before the Depression in 1928, an unfortunate accident had claimed the life of Robert (Bud) Reid.

Douglas Reid, the brother who collected cabbages and chickens, became a pilot and an RCAF instructor during the first three years of World War II. Later he served a tour of “Ops” overseas. Returning to Canada after World War II, he flew as a pilot for the Ontario Department of Forests.

Laura Evan Reid (our mother), a woman ahead of her time, was a fashion designer and had a hat shop of her own in Guelph, Ontario, before her marriage. She was always intrigued with color, and while raising her family in Vegreville, always painted something, a chair, a vase, a wall. After her family left home she and our father were alone again. With time to herself and with cooperation and instruction from the Department of Extension, University of Alberta, she became a truly fine artist whose strength was her color. She became a member of the Alberta Society of Artists and she had a picture hung in the National Gallery of Canada. Robert, the true Scot that he was,



Dr. Couillard, Harry Taylor and Dr. Reid — the Lions dedicated the plaques to the two doctors for their long and faithful service in Vegreville. Mr. Taylor, the President, made the presentation at the special reception, 1952.

became her liveliest critic but also her best admirer. It was fascinating to see the change of expression and innermost feeling of this artist in the so few years that she was creatively painting (she ceased painting to look after her grandchildren when they came during the war years). Her few years after World War II were her most productive and dramatic.

Fred Reid was born in Vegreville. He was educated in Vegreville, graduating from the University of Alberta in Medicine just before World War II. He served with the RCAF during the war. Later he did post-graduate work and returned as a surgeon to Vegreville to practice with his father. His wife and three children accompanied him. Michael now works for the Government of Alberta. John and Lesley both graduated from University: John is teaching in Edmonton, and Lesley is a housewife in Calgary. Their mother, Margaret, spent a very active community life in Vegreville.

Later Fred was to leave his practice as a surgeon and join the Vegreville Health Unit from which he resigned in 1976. In 1978, Margaret and Fred left Vegreville. There had been a Reid family, and a Dr. Reid in Vegreville steadily for 66 years.

Reid, James Stanley

by Stan Reid

James Stanley Reid came to Vegreville in 1910 from his birthplace in Perthshire, Scotland, via San Francisco, Victoria and Edmonton. He was a partner in the early Reid and Ross grocery store. In 1912 he married Elizabeth E. Johnston, one of the first nurses at the R.M.B. Hospital. Before 1920 Mr. Reid sold out the grocery store and enlisted in the civil service as the federal customs and excise officer in Vegre-



The James Stanley Reid family in last full photo in 1939. (L. to R.) — Stan, Ian, Mr. J. S. Reid, Mrs. Reid, and Bill.

ville. In that capacity he was one of the first people to greet newcomers from Europe who were arriving in great numbers. There were three sons in the Reid family: James Stanley, born in 1913; Ian McLaren in 1918 and William Archibald in 1920. In 1930 Mr. Reid was transferred to Lloydminster to a regional customs office. The family lived there until about 1935 when Mr. Reid retired and returned to Vegreville to live on the property on Mount Pleasant. At last look about a year ago, the small house was still there, squeezed in among a bunch of new homes. Mr. Reid died in Vegreville in 1940 and Mrs. Reid lived to be 83 and died in Red Deer in 1968. The two younger sons, Ian and Bill, joined the armed services at the outbreak of war in 1939. Both were lost overseas, Ian in the RCAF and Bill with the engineers in Italy in 1944. Stanley was a surveyor on the Alaska Highway in the early 1940's, joined the RCAF in 1943 but did not get overseas. He married Josephine Jevne of Wetaskiwin in 1948 and they are now living in Red Deer. They have three sons, James Stanley, William and Patrick.

Richards, Silas

by Nellie (Richards) Dumont

Silas William Richards Jr. aged twenty-two, travelled by boat and train from his home in West Bromwich, England, arriving in the St. Paul de Metis area

on August 6, 1912. There he took out a patent for a homestead (NW 31-59-9 W4) in the Lake Vincent district. What a shock that wilderness must have been compared to life in England! Two months later more Richards arrived there: Silas Sr., his wife Maggie and their daughter Floss. Upon seeing the hardships of homestead life, they decided to move to Vegreville and took a house there in Frenchtown (5446-54a Ave.); Silas Jr. soon decided lonely homesteading was not for him, so he moved here with his folks and he and his dad earned a living by delivering fresh water to householders in Vegreville, using a horse-drawn sleigh or cart and barrels.

While delivering water to the English School for Foreigners (three doors north of the present Elks Hall), Silas Jr. met a young English maid working at the school — Bessie Forder, who had come from Southampton in 1913 to the Bill Moody residence in Vegreville. Si and Bessie had a long-lasting courtship; they were married January 18, 1918 just before Si went off to war as #3206082 in the 50th Battalion of the Alberta Regiment. While Si was overseas, Bessie purchased a small home on the north side of Vegreville (corner of 50 St. and 57 Ave.) Si was wounded in action, discharged, and back in town by April, 1919. Being a trained machinist, he got a job in the Chas. Gordon Sash & Door Factory (Co-op parking lot now), but when he lost the tops of three fingers there he left and then became a maintenance man for the Vegreville School District under the able management of Nick McIntyre, the secretary-treasurer. This was Si's main living for the next thirty years until his retirement at age 60 in 1950.

All his life Si was interested in music, and being a fine pianist he “moonlighted” by playing the piano for local silent movies, then held in the first theatre in town in Dobbins Hall (now Legion Hall). He also accompanied such soloists as Owen Williams, the Welsh-born school inspector for Vegreville district, and Iris, Si's niece, who often entertained at Camaraderie socials. Si also helped direct and play in the local drama efforts popular then. He played on the original Vegreville Soccer team and enjoyed a Sunday game of golf on the pasture east of his house, along with his buddies Dr. Monkman (dentist), Dick Rennie and Thos. Cannon. Si was an ardent fan of the famed Vegreville Rangers, then under the management of Jack Moss, manager of the Alberta Hotel. That was a great hockey team, featuring Pete and John Lemiski; Bob McKinnon who married Peggy Luxton; the Barr brothers, and many more. Not a game was missed.

Meanwhile, Bessie Richards was busy raising her family, with the assistance of her widowed sister, Ellen Glyde, “Auntie”, who came to Vegreville in



Silas Richards, Jr., at work at Vegreville Public School (now demolished), 1935.



Richards' water service, about 1912.

1920 and spent the rest of her life with the Richards, becoming a second mother to all. Nellie Richards was born May 25, 1920; Betty came December 3, 1921, and Flossie on January 20, 1929. The girls grew up in the wide-open spaces of the north side, romping with their friends the Dowhaniuks, Greens, Louis Medland, Aucoins, Hantiuks, Prystupas, Petaskis, and Fairbairns. Each of the Richards girls had seven years of music under Mrs. W. T. Clements and many happy hours were spent as choir members of St. Mary's Anglican church (the little one under the south water tower). Choir leader was Mrs. R. V.

Aterson and how we enjoyed meeting at her home, singing, learning how to embroider and stuffing ourselves with chocolate-puff cookies. Some of the other girls were: Peggy Hayter, Peggy Rice, Helen Fitzallen, and Jean Cooper. Bessie Richards also was involved in St. Mary's, sewing and baking for tea, and doing altar work. When WW II broke out, both Bessie and Auntie became ardent Red Cross workers, knitting, sewing, and sending parcels overseas. Bessie also helped Si augment their income by the maintenance job at the Bank of Montreal and Hurlburt's law office (where Toronto-Dominion now stands).

The whole Richards clan had great get-togethers frequently and especially at Christmas when young and old joined in the sing-songs; Grandma Maggie had a lovely voice and Silas Sr. had a fund of witty skits. Grandma Richards died in 1947, Grandpa in 1949, and both are buried in Riverside cemetery.

Si's sister, Floss, married George Rice during WW I and in later years she married Walter Hansen a carpenter. She had two daughters, Iris and Peggy, who grew up with the Richards girls. Iris took a business course, worked for AGT, and married Jake Mast Jr. who was agent for B.A. Oil and later manager of Gulf Servico until retirement recently. Iris and Jake now divide their residence between Edmonton and Mesa, Arizona. Their daughter Judy born here in 1942, graduated from U of A with B.A. and B.Ed., married Gordon "Spike" Taylor (grandson of A. L. Horton) and both work in Edmonton. Peggy Rice also worked at AGT here and later in Calgary where she married Cleve Acheson, son of an early Vegreville telephone man. Peggy and Cleve have four children and live in Vancouver.

During WW II, Si Richards became president of the Vegreville Branch of the Canadian Legion (1943-1947) and he was instrumental in raising money, by selling "bricks", etc., to purchase the Dobbins block for the Legion. Late in life he joined the Masonic Lodge and became their pianist. As Si found the northside house too far from work, he sold it and bought their final home, and the Jim Third place kitty-corner from the Cenotaph. Auntie Ellen Glyde died in 1964; Si passed away March 17, 1971; the house was sold and Bessie has since been visiting with her daughters and now is resident in Central Park Lodge, Edmonton. At 93, she is still quite active, knitting as usual, and enjoying company or a dinner out.

Nellie (Richards) Dumont's story will be found elsewhere in this book.

Betty Richards, second daughter of Si and Bessie, took a secretarial course and worked in Vegreville for H. S. Hurlburt; married Kenneth Ward,



Si Richards' Jr. family, 1978. Flossie (Richards) McCarty, Nellie (Richards) Dumont, Betty (Richards) Ward. Mrs. Si (Bessie) Richards, age 93.

grandson of Christy Moore; moved to Calgary where they worked and raised three children.

Flossie Richards graduated from Vegreville High School, became a book-keeper at Imperial Lumber; married Walter McCarty, a local lad; they now live in Edmonton where Flossie works for the Edmonton Catholic School district and Walter is fieldman for the County of Strathcona. Their three sons are distinguished graduates in the fields of education, medicine, and telecommunications, respectively.

Richardson, Frederick C.

by Inez (Richardson) Towns and Dan Richardson

My father, Fred C. Richardson, came from Havelock, Ont. in 1902 and, after working on the river around Edmonton for a brief time, homesteaded at Vegreville. In 1907 he returned to Ontario and married Mary Edna Pomeroy who returned to Vegreville with him. They resided there until 1932 when they moved north to yet another homestead at Flatbush. During their 25 years at Vegreville they raised a family of six sons and two daughters. Their third son, Lloyd, died at the age of 7 years during a Scarlet Fever and Typhoid outbreak. In the earlier years other members of our parents' family came from the East. We grew up having a deep affection for these aunts and uncles. An uncle from each side of the family was lost during World War No. 1.

We lived in the Imperial District and so many memories come back to me of our life there that it is



The Fred Richardsons who farmed about 6 miles south-east of Vegreville in 1915-16.

difficult to decide what may be of interest to others. Our experiences travelling the 3½ miles to school were sometimes monotonous, but, more than a few times, scary and exciting. Our Dad constructed a tin-covered sled to help break the cold winds in winter. On one very cold morning our eldest brother, Ken, drove us to school with a young frisky team we weren't allowed to take on our own. At the first rattle of tin they bolted, and all Ken could do was keep them headed in the right direction. We arrived at school in record time and more than a little shook up. I believe he came for us with a Bob sleigh and a more subdued team in the afternoon. Meeting a car was always a harrowing experience as our horse usually shied and raced for the ditch; I was thrown out and received a severe laceration to my head. Mrs. Harter, who was driving the car, was very upset but managed to gather me up, and took me home where I arrived in an unconscious state. Needless to say, I spent a week in the R.M.B. hospital and, enjoyed a holiday from school as well as a lot of welcome attention. Our Dad had made an arrangement with our neighbor, Mr. Nick Hewko, for both families to share a large democrat to travel to school in, and this was fairly easily upset when our horse misbehaved. Our horse was never a fast one, and we used to envy the Sikal children who had a really fast driving horse and would leave us miles behind.

Mother was always a busy person, for, along with raising a large family there were always hired men, especially during harvest. It was an exciting, happy time when threshing time came. Dad had a big steam engine and threshing machine and this meant lots of extra help was required. We always looked forward to the time Mr. and Mrs. Rueben Bull would move in with their families and many others of their



Mr. and Mrs. Fred Richardson at Flatbush, 1940's.

Band from Saddle Lake. They would set up their tents in our pasture each fall and I know they were not only welcomed as good help, but good friends, too. We younger ones were always happy with the extra companionship at that time. As busy as she was, my mother could always find time to help a neighbor



Irwin Beamish, sitting on the running-board of his 1927 Chrysler; Will Richardson standing. Beamish house in background, 1928. (Beamish used this car for 21 years, selling it in 1948).

when needed, and, I remember her being the correspondent for the Vegreville Observer; supplying the Imperial News column for many years.

Our Christmas and New Years were nearly always spent in a traditional way. Each Christmas we would have our aunt and uncle, Bill and Nellie Pomeroy, and son Archie, of Lavoy, come to our house. On New Year's Day our whole family would drive to the Pomeroy's where a long, enjoyable day would be spent.

A similar trip we always looked forward to was a once-or-twice-a-year trip to Ranfurly to visit the Henry Beamish family, cousins of my Dad. Their family of seven girls and two boys blended well with ours of mostly boys, and many happy hours were spent together.

Everyone from our area will remember the many devastating hailstorms we suffered through and these eventually drove Dad and a few of the neighbors to look for land elsewhere. This resulted in a small migration to Flatbush, 100 miles north of Edmonton. Among those moving north were the J. McK. Hughes', W. R. Riddell's, Archie Pomeroy, Frank Hornby Jr., and Uncle Bill Richardson who had been residing in Edmonton. Others to come north soon were Wilmot and Alberta Ruttan and Dwight Scott.

Our Dad went in for raising sheep at one time and a story comes to mind about the day they herded the flock to Vegreville to ship to market. Unfortunately, the sheep began to mill as they were crossing the railroad track and the men had to watch helplessly as a train bore down on them with tragic results. I don't know how great the loss was but, no doubt, a big setback for Dad.

As we grew up, I can remember being able to attend family social occasions such as pie socials and dances at our school and attending Christmas Concerts in other schools. I even managed to attend one of Ross' barn dances before we moved away.

We were very sorry to learn of the passing of

Peter McDiarmid as he had been our link with Vegreville for several years prior to his death. Each summer he came north to visit the Bill Riddell's at Pib-roch, and usually brought them with him to visit us. He and my husband, Bill Towns, became well acquainted and we found these visits most enjoyable. Perhaps it was a coincidence that in the fall of 1932 when our family moved to Flatbush, another family, the John Towns' of Castor, Alta., also moved here. I might add that Bill and I are still here 47 years later. Bill has just retired as Postmaster, a position he has held for nearly 31 years. Mother died in 1947 and Father in 1962.

Our family is sadly depleted, with only four of us remaining but, I know we have many pleasant memories of our life at Vegreville, and would find many friends there should we make a trip back. I hope to be able to do that before too long.

Richardson, George by the late Clark Richardson

My earliest boyhood memories are very very happy ones. I was a member of a family of six, four boys and two girls, who grew up on the farm sixteen miles north of Vegreville: Roy, Vivian, Richard (Dick), Clark, Beulah (Mrs. Cam Campbell), and Leora (Mrs. Burns Gorsline). My parents were hard-working, God-fearing, and although my father was strict, he was always very kind and very fair. My mother was an excellent cook and there were always plenty of good things to eat. Probably for this reason, as well as our nearness to the school (Dad had donated the land for it when the school was formed), the teacher always boarded with us. When you add a hired man and a hired girl to this number, it usually meant that mother was cooking for a dozen each meal, and Sundays were no holidays because then we usually had half a dozen guests. At threshing time there would be at least two dozen or more. When I think back to those times of no power, no refrigeration, no incandescent lights, no autos, nor few if any of the things we take for granted today, I often wonder how my mother accomplished half of what she had to do everyday. But our household was well-organized; we were sent to school clean and neatly dressed, in clothes that were often hand-me-down, but neatly patched and serviceable.

My father had never received anything but a primary education as a boy. He worked in the North Quebec bush every winter from eleven years on, driving a team, skidding logs out of the bush. But he was one of those self-educated men, who read widely, and had a deep respect for education. Although he made no great profession of religion, his Bible was never far from his hand, and supported my mother in



2 loads of wool from Fred Richardson's sheep, about 1919.

seeing that we all got a religious training, as well as a formal education. When I was in grade five and my older sisters and brothers were ready for high school, mother moved into a home my father bought in Vegreville so that we could continue our education. This meant that my father had to batch alone on the farm, except when we drove out on weekends. I often think that few of us today might be prepared to make the sacrifices that he was forced to make, for our proper education.

Despite his limited education, and his large family, (there were nine of us all told — three died in childhood) Dad was always forward-looking, willing to try new ideas and technology. We had one of the first windmills in the community, the first steam threshing outfit in the district, he bought registered stock, and was very interested in improving the breeding of his livestock. He served on the school-board, the church board and was always open-handed in his giving. He had many good friends, many of them among the Ukrainian settlers who came into our community just before World War 1. This made it easy for him to get help when he needed it for my mother in the house, as well as extra men on the farm.

For many years Dad and Vivian specialized in raising horses and selling them to new settlers, as well as shipping them East for sale to the lumber camps. This meant breaking them in during the winter, putting them in the barn and fattening them up for shipment in carload lots. A good well-broken team would fetch five or six hundred dollars and this was very good money at a time when farm needs were comparatively few and cheap. We needed about twelve to twenty head of horses on the farm to pull the implements which were used in farming.

Our community at first was almost solidly English, Eastern Canadian and American. There were

plenty of community functions, and we visited a great deal. Dad's two brothers farmed nearby and mother had two married sisters in the community. Later on, many of the English homesteaders sold out to Ukrainian immigrants, so that for some years now the district is solidly of Ukrainian stock, and none of our family remain in the Vegreville district.

When my father first decided to come West in 1889, he was thirty and was accompanied by his brother Silas, who was then unmarried. Silas decided to stay out and took up a homestead at Whitford Lake near the present town of Willingdon. Dad, who had left his family in the East, decided to return East and did not come back to Alberta for nearly seventeen years in 1906 just after the coming of the railway to Vegreville. This time he sold his farm in the East, filled a railway car with livestock, implements and households goods, sent my mother and five children by train, and came himself in the freight car with the stock, to care for the animals enroute. He was allowed to ride in the caboose at most times. Soon after coming West he bought our farm from a man named Chamberlain who was going back East. It was a four-day trip for mother with five children to look after. The youngest boy, Jones, died soon after arrival with diphtheria, which he probably caught on the train coming out.

Our farm was surrounded by many square miles of open land, free to be grazed by whoever wanted to run cattle or horses on it. My brother Roy used to take out cattle from an agent in Edmonton, run them during the summer grazing, and ship them back in the fall. I was about twelve then and he hired me and my pony for a dollar a day to herd them and see that they did not wander, as cattle on a strange range frequently do. I loved riding and spent two summers happily herding these cattle. I can recall having three different ponies given me during my boyhood, my last, a small bay-blooded mare, which was so fast she won most of the races in our country; we entered her in Edmonton, although I did not ride her there and she won handily in the competition.

I can recall many things which gave me joy as a child on the farm. Berry-picking with my mother and sisters, hunting coyotes with my brothers — using greyhounds, shooting or snaring partridges in the woods close to home, also rabbits, gophers, ducks, etc., rounding up cattle and horses in the fall, hunting for birds' nests — I was an inveterate birds' egg collector, but I did not destroy nests — riding my pony on errands, and keeping him clean and fit. Few of these tasks so interesting to me, would be the concern of farm children now. I worked hard, too, rounding up the milch cows, helping my mother to milk them, helping my Dad pick roots, stones and



Clark Richardson, son of George, as a teacher in 1929. Died in a car accident, about 1976.

otherwise clear land for breaking, help in the garden of which we had an acre or more. I just had to jump over the garden fence to go to school. Frequently, I was allowed to have school friends stay overnight from school, and we would play at any number of games.

Once in a while we had visitors from the East, my grandparents from Shawville, cousins and uncles and aunts. To them coming West was the great adventure, but most of them were just visitors. How much more of an adventure it was for my father and mother, leaving all friends behind, embarking on a new life in a new, raw country, where every dollar had to be wrenched from the land by hard work. But the great appeal was the opportunity to buy good land cheap, or prove up on a homestead. The opportunity was there to everyone who wanted to take it, and the three brothers prospered. They bought more land, built fine homes and barns, bought new machinery, and improved the comfort of their homes. The name Richardson became a highly respected one in the Vegreville district.

My mother suffered from diabetes and took insulin for the last ten years of her life. She died at 67, a very painful death caused by gangrene settling in her toes through poor blood circulation. We had a special nurse all one summer just to tend her as the doctor seemed to feel she would be better at home than in a hospital. I was with her to the end as my sisters were married and away as well as my old brothers, and I never experienced such a sad summer before or since. Her death was a merciful one, although it nearly broke my father's heart. He never seemed quite the same to me after that, although he lived another ten years, mostly with my sister Beulah and her husband Cam, whom I remember as always being very kind to my father.

By this time I had finished high school and gradu-



Aunt Annie Richardson, Ethel Kitto, Stepmother Elizabeth Richardson, Beulah Campbell, Emma Richardson, Glenna Kitto holding baby Campbell, 1929.

ated from Normal School in Calgary in 1926. My first school was in a Ukrainian settlement near the present town of Two Hills, where I had fifty-four students in grades one to four, with eighteen ones, none of whom spoke English. I left after one frustrating year and resolved never to teach again. I worked building elevators that summer and joined the bank in September. Banking in those days was almost menial labor at starvation wages. I did not like it, and went back teaching in the fall and never considered quitting again for the next forty-five years.

After roaming about while I was single, teaching west of Lacombe, in the Peace River, at Amisk near Wainwright and at Chauvin, where I met my wife, I moved into the Vermilion area as principal at Dewberry. For the next thirty-six years I was employed by the same board as principal of three different schools teaching grades one to twelve, although my work was almost entirely in the high school. When I was nearly forty years of age, I began taking University courses at Summer School, and sometimes extramural winter courses. I was granted my B.Ed. in 1955, the same year that I moved to Kitscoty. The following summer I began my Masters Degree at Missoula, Montana, where I spent four summers, sometimes ten weeks at a stretch, working off my Masters degree in education. We had five daughters at this time and although we took the whole family the first year I went to Missoula, Jennie never accompanied me after that. She stayed at home and looked after the children, thereby making it possible for me to put more into my classes. I graduated with a high standing in 1961, and taught steadily until June, 1972, when I reached retirement age. My experience and qualifications by this time qualified me for one of the highest pensions given an Alberta teacher.

We had decided to retire to Vermilion as that was the centre for the area in which I had lived for the latter half of my life. We bought a new home in August, 1972 and that fall I worked for Don Mazankowski M.P. as his Vermilion campaign manager. In November the principal of Vermilion College asked me to take a job as coordinator of the PEP program for upgrading the skills of the unemployed. I have spent two pleasant winters at the College and had my summers free for travelling, gardening, playing golf, etc. This has allowed me to settle into retirement gradually.

Looking back, I can honestly say that my career as a teacher held a lot of interest for me, allowed me to raise and educate a fairly large family, and made me a lot of friends among young people and older people as well. We have been able to retire in good health, financially independent, with several happy years to look forward to. Our family are all around

us, as are our friends, and we see them often. We probably get the greatest bang of our grandchildren, of whom we have twelve. Our youngest daughter, Judy, has not started her family yet so we will probably have more to welcome as grandparents. To quote a line from an old song,

“Who could ask for anything more?”

The information below is provided by Judy (Richardson) Leaman.

George Richardson’s family are all deceased.

Roy Richardson and wife Letticia, retired and lived in Surrey until his death at the age of 85; his wife predeceased him by a few years.

Vivian and wife Ethel lived on the outskirts of Vegreville and ran one of the local dairies until his very sudden death in the 1940’s, leaving six children.

Richard and his wife deceased approximately six years ago.

Beulah and husband Cam Campbell lived in Vegreville until Cam’s death, after which she travelled considerably, visiting her children until her death in the 1970’s.

Clark received his schooling in Vegreville, became a teacher and he and his wife Jenny resided in Vermilion until his death in a car accident in the 1970’s.

Leora and Burns Gorsline later moved to Burns Lake, running a restaurant and later moved to Calgary. Burns passed away, and Leora was cook and dietician in one of the hospitals until her retirement, and then shortly after, suddenly passed away.

Richardson, James and Margaret by Pearl (Richardson) Johnston

I was born on March 10, 1908 in the first home that my father built on his ranch at Hairy Hill, Alberta, the third daughter of James and Margaret Richardson.

My first memories are of Mr. Tom Leask and Mr. Richard Rennie building our new home at Hairy Hill when I was about four years old. They would drive the twenty miles from Vegreville by horse and buggy and always came with their pockets full of maple buds or paper-wrapped candy kisses. To me, this home was a mansion — large kitchen, pantry, dining room, “parlour” and spare bedroom downstairs and four bedrooms upstairs. The spare bedroom was a necessity at that time as most of our guests were overnight visitors. The upstairs had four bedrooms and a bathroom. The water had to be carried upstairs and down again for baths. We did have a good supply of water forced from the windmill pump to a large cistern under the house, then a force pump at the kitchen sink.



On Prairie Lodge steps — Glenna Johnston, Ethel Kitto, Pearl Johnston, Milburn Richardson. 1940.



William Gordon, one of first Salvation Army Officers in Vegreville, about 1927.



The old sod shack used in both Saskatchewan and Alberta, early 1900's.



Margaret Johnston among "porkies", about 1926.

In 1914, Dad purchased a Model T Ford. If the roads were good and no mud holes, we could make the twenty mile trip to Vegreville in slightly over an hour; Mother and the four of us girls wore silk auto veils tied over our hats, all blowing in the breeze. It was on one of these excursions that I had my very first ice cream cone purchased at Billy Thornton's confectionery.

I can also remember riding on the range with Dad before I started to school. My father had a large herd of cattle and many horses. It was open range for miles around and a school section bordered our farm. The horses were very wild and sometimes not trained to harness until five or six years old, so the winter was a busy time preparing horses for the spring work which usually required at least three outfits of four or six-ups.

My father sold some dray teams in Vegreville. The Charles Gordon Lumber Co. purchased one of these teams. Many old-timers will remember Billy and Peer, a small team of Percherons that delivered lumber and coal around town for almost twenty years and were finally put out to pasture.

Another very clear memory was of Dad saddling a horse for my mother when he would see coyotes on the ice of Watt's Lake, which bordered our farm on the east. Mother was a good shot with a rifle, but not Dad. He would follow and do the skinning. Hides were bringing \$2 and \$3 each then.

My father came to Alberta in 1894 as a young bachelor. The closest store was in Edmonton, one hundred miles away. In the severe cold weather, the early settlers would shoot rabbits, skin them and turn the hides inside out. Without any tanning, these skins were used as liners for their footwear. They were removed and hung outside the door at night.

I started school on my sixth birthday at Hairy Hill — a one-room school with grades one to eight. My two sisters and I drove four miles in a buggy or a cutter when the snow came. Horses were terrified of cars then. Our instructions were to cut across the prairie if we heard a motor running.

In 1916, my father purchased a house on Town Hall Street in Vegreville and, in 1920, we moved to Prairie Lodge farm, the home in Alberta that I remember most of all. There we had our saddle horses and the Model T. We all learned to drive at age fourteen or fifteen. There were no drivers' licences or car insurance then, but drivers were supposed to be



Ruby and Milburn Richardson, 1916.



Pearl and Ruby Richardson, 1929.



Roy Richardson and wife Alma, formerly Almlank. At hospital, December, 1976.

sixteen years. Mr. Billy Rogers was Town Constable and every day he had to check the power house located near the gate of our farm. He never refused to ride even with under-age drivers if we happened along.

More memories of Prairie Lodge, our last home as a family in Alberta: my sister, Ethel, was married to Morcomb Kitto in our home in 1921. Their oldest daughter, now Glenna Patch, was born there. My sister, Glenna, was married there also to Glen John-



Silas and George Richardson, about 1936. (See pages 751, 758.)



(L. to r.) — Glenna Richardson, Grace Pozer, Ruby Richardson, Ethel Richardson, Pearl Richardson, Beulah Richardson. 1914.



At May Kitto's birthday, about 1925.

ston in 1925. Their two oldest children, Margaret Hoiland and Robert were born there. Mother passed away at home in 1925 after a long illness.

My first school in Vegreville was the old public school, then grades 5 and 6 in the old Presbyterian Church and Miss Ada Wright was the teacher. Grades 7 and 8 were in a very old building north of the C.N.R. track with Miss Wright and Miss McIntosh the teachers there. Finally, a brand new four-room high school, but still no indoor plumbing.



James Henry Richardson in parlour of home — Prairie Lodge, 1926.



Clark and Leora Richardson at George Richardson farm house. Note the spats and boy's short pants, 1923. (See page 751.)

In 1927, I went to the Vermilion School of Agriculture and took Home Economics.

When the Singer Sewing Centre opened in Vegreville, I worked there as bookkeeper until I married in 1932 to Robert Johnston of Lamont. Bob and I moved back to the Prairie Lodge farm in 1936 from the Edmonton area and lived there for six years. In 1948, we moved to Quesnel, B.C. with our two sons, Douglas and James.

Douglas is a Chartered Accountant and President of West Fraser Mills Ltd. He married Claudia Stonehouse of Vancouver in 1957 and they have three sons, Dan, Gary and Dean and a daughter, Alison.

Jim is a rancher in the Quesnel area. He married Ruby Paholka in 1961 and they have three sons, Leslie, Robert and Keith.



Richardson outfit hauling grain, 1927.



Mrs. Margaret Jane (Jones) Richardson, 1925.



Margaret Jones and Jim Richardson wedding picture, Shawville, Quebec, 1900.



This plane did an aerial survey of Vegreville and district in summer of 1926. The airstrip was the pasture at Prairie Lodge farm.

Richardson, Silas and Emma by Lola Myers

In 1893, Silas and Emma Richardson arrived in Alberta from Eastern Canada to make their permanent home.

In those days the homes were usually one-or two-room shacks out on the prairie in the wide open spaces.

The grocery store around the corner was 90 miles away, now the city of Edmonton.

The hardships were many and the conveniences few and far between.

Roads were merely a path across the prairie, leading to some neighbor.

Horseback riding was the most popular transportation from place to place.

I shall always remember our ranch life as my father raised many cattle and horses. I never remember learning to ride because as soon as I could walk, riding was my life.

Two children were born to Silas and Emma: Lola and Clinton. Lola is now in Phoenix, Arizona and Clinton in Montreal, Quebec.

Richardson, Silas and Emma by Judy (Richardson) Leaman

My uncle, Silas Richardson, well-known in the Masonic Order in Vegreville, and his wife Emma, had preceded my father by several years and had settled on the south end of Ben's Lake near Two Hills. Aunt Emma arrived as a bride in 1894, and my mother Margaret (Maggie) as a bride in 1900.

Lola Richardson, daughter of Silas and Emma, married Carson Williams and lived on a farm which had artesian wells, approximately six miles from Vegreville. Later she, her husband and their family moved to Phoenix, Ariz. for his health.

Clinton Richardson married Frankie Lowlar. She had worked for several years in the courthouse in Vegreville. Clinton first started his own grocery store and later managed the Star Store in Vegreville. During World War II he entered the armed forces and



Clinton Richardson and wife Frankie, 1953.

rose to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel. Retired not too many years ago from the position of Manager of the Pittsburg Paint Co. in Montreal, he is living in the Mount Royal area.

Many good times were had amongst the families, especially at Christmas when we all gathered in one big home; also there was at least one big annual picnic in the summer — tug-o-war, horseshoes, races and ball games.

To further my elder sisters' educations, we bought a home in Vegreville, on town hall street. We lived next-door to the Morrisons who owned the dray business. Mrs. W. Clement, the music teacher, lived a few doors further down the street. Then came the Russels, the lawyer, and across the street were Frasers and the Hackers. A few doors down from the town hall lived Mr. Holden, the mayor of the town, and across the street from the town hall lived the Mortons of Morton's Hardware. Mrs. Chandler had a small cottage and took in boarders to help make a living. The United Church manse was just across the street from our home. At the far end of our street lived the Cassons, owner of a very good meat store; then came the Hepburns, the undertaker. The names of many more of our neighbors have left my memory.

I will always remember that little six-roomed bungalow we called home. It had a large steeple on the roof which was very unusual for that part of the country. On my last trip through Vegreville I was sorry to see that they had removed the steeple.

How we did enjoy skating on the Vermilion River back of Mr. Dean's house during our school years. Then when the snows came, we moved to the skating rink. Those bonfires were really something.

Our first proms and dances were held at the old armouries. I also remember the Camaraderie Club, all young business girls and, of course, the tennis courts; the year the High School opened near the old water tower in Mount Pleasant.

I was working for the post office when they opened the new post office across from the hotel. What a day that was! Bill Turner and Gladys Chabot and the Hines were the working crew.

Rierner, Alex

by Alex Rierner

My dad, Alexander (A. L.) Rierner was born in Michigan, U.S.A. in 1891 and came to the Vegreville district in the spring of 1908, being 17 years old. He rode in a railway box car with four horses which he was responsible to care for on the trip; and which were to be used on the farm where his parents (The Paul Riemers) had settled shortly before, a few miles north-east of Vegreville.

He would tell how the horses' rumps were rubbed

raw from the timbers fitted behind them across the box car by which they were partitioned off from the rest of the carload. It was the jostling and shunting of the train, especially in switching yards, that caused the sores.

Besides helping at home, he worked out at various jobs for the following few years, including a good deal of time with the Bert Jenningses in the Park Grove District north-west of Vegreville.

In 1911, at age 17, my mother, Miss Idel Regan, came to Canada with her parents (the Fred Regans) from Brainard, Minnesota, U.S.A., and settled on a homestead in the Glendon area. Because there wasn't time to get a house built, they lived in a tent the first winter.

It appeared to be the glowing reports of the great opportunities out West, which they read and heard about that prompted both families to come here.

Within a year after arriving at Glendon, Grandma Regan became very ill and had to be brought to a Vegreville hospital, where she passed away. As a result of grandfather Regan having to come to Vegreville to make funeral arrangements, he became acquainted with the Riemers, and further to this — the romance which resulted in Mom's and Dad's marriage in August, 1914.

They worked for different area farmers until they bought their first one-half section of land in the Ridge Park District, south-east of Vegreville in 1917.

Dad cleared most of the bush with the axe and would hire other people to do the breaking. The first few acres of crop in 1918 froze so badly that it wasn't worth threshing so the bundles were sold to a neighbor for feed. This discouragement, plus a good many other hardships over the following number of years, caused our parents many anxious times.



Seated (l. to r.) — Mr. and Mrs. Paul Rierner. Standing (l. to r.) — daughter Clara Rierner (Hansen), and sons Alex, Benjamin, Andrew, and Ernest. In front of Rierner home in Highlow S.D., SW 26-52-14W4, about 1910.

Their children are Harold, born October, 1918, presently in Edmonton; Evan, July, 1920, Vegreville; Ralph, November, 1922, Elk Point; Arlo (Dan), January, 1926, Kamloops, B.C.; Eva, March, 1928, Edmonton.

The family lived in a two-room shack as it was called, until 1926 when the new 2-storey, 5-bedroom house was built by Mr. Ed Eickmeyer, a carpenter of the area for many years and who is still living. Dad did much worrying that year because of the drought. However, the next year was good and he was able to pay off the full \$5200 cost of the house. Quite a far cry from today's prices!

I took my eight years of public school at Ridge Park beginning in 1926. The teachers during that time were Miss Hazel Coombs, Mrs. A. A. Harkness, and Mrs. Harold Kennedy (nee Bertha Jennings) for whose parents Dad had worked, as mentioned earlier, soon after first coming to Vegreville.

No doubt the highlight of the year in public school days would be the Christmas program. Each pupil would have his or her part to memorize in the plays, etc; but by the time it was all over, I'm quite sure each one could completely recite all the other kids' parts as well. I have always wondered how the teacher could stand the stress and tension during the preparation, but in the end most everyone came through with flying colors.

In grade 8, I was the only boy in the class of 7 or 8, and would get teased about surviving amongst all those girls.

Our immediate neighbors in those days were the Deans, Walkers, Landrys, Jameses, Brandles, Olinecks, Umphreys, McCartys, Brintons, and McAreavys. We joined with some of the young people from these families in sports such as softball in the summer to skating and skiing in winter. The



(l. to r.) — Miss Idel Regan, her dad Fred Regan, and his three sons — Volton, Howard, and Dree. This log house was built in 1911 near Glenoon.

Umphrey and McCarty boys with Ralph and me would try to find the largest straw stacks to ski down; Mr. Dean used to have some pretty big ones!

I attended high school in Vegreville for three years, riding either saddle horse or bicycle the six miles, then quit in 1937 to help on the farm. Dad had changed from horse to power farming in 1938 and I continued at home for the next few years.

Frieda Wurtz and I were married in 1943, then bought and moved to the Ben Hawkins Farm, a half-mile from the home place, one year later.

We had three children, Darrell, born in 1944, now in Peace River. Joel, born in 1951, now in Calgary. Anna Daugn, born in 1956, now Mrs. Ken DeMaere of Red Deer. Their mother passed away in 1970.

In 1972 I married widowed Mrs. Mildred Harrison who has two grown daughters: Jeanette and Maureen of Calgary.

My parents sold the home farm in 1962 and lived in Edmonton until Dad's death in 1974 at age 84. Mom is about 86 now, and lives in a lodge at Gibbons, Alberta.

Riemer, Andrew and Laura

Andrew Riemer came to the Vegreville area from Marlette, Michigan in 1908, with his father Paul Riemer. He was the third youngest in a family of eight. They lived in Vegreville, the Imperial area, and later settled in the Highlow District on what was called the "Riemer Ranch". Andrew worked in Edmonton for a few years before starting to farm on his own in 1925.

He was married to Laura Wallace in 1926. She was the widow of the late Richard B. Wallace, contractor and builder in Vegreville, up until his death in 1919. Laura and her two children, Muriel and Rita, moved out to the farm, where the girls attended the Highlow School for a few years. Andrew and Laura had three more children — Caroline, Luella and David.

Andrew was particularly fond of Clyde horses and won many red, blue and white ribbons at the local exhibitions. He was also very well known in church circles for his beautiful tenor voice.

He was Sunday School Superintendent in the Highlow School for many years.

The family moved to Dewberry to settle on a farm in 1936. Muriel joined the Airforce during the war and settled in Ottawa, after her marriage to Del Milliken in 1947. They had two daughters. Rita completed her education, including teacher training, and taught for two years near Kitscoty before coming to Vegreville. She taught the Victory School, south

of Lavoy, for one year before marrying Harold James and moving to the Ridge Park District. After teaching another five years, she retired from teaching to raise four children. When the youngest started school in 1967, she went back to teach in the Lavoy School. Caroline also took her teacher's training at the University of Alberta and taught one year before marrying Owen Hansen and moving to Menomonie, Wisconsin. They had three girls, one of whom became a nurse. Luella married Donald Maddex and has lived in the Marwayne and Dewberry areas ever since. They raised eight children, one of whom was killed in a fatal accident in 1977. David, a heavy-duty mechanic, is married and has four children. He has lived at Osgoodi near Ottawa since about 1958.

Mr. and Mrs. Riemer are well up in their eighties. Both are mentally alert and live on their farm near Dewberry. Luella and her husband live in a mobile home in their yard and Caroline and husband have travelled up from Wisconsin every summer for the last thirty years, to spend about three weeks helping them with necessary building or renovations.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Riemer love reminiscing about the good old days at Vegreville. They often speak of Ed Eickmeyer, Charlie Brinton, and the late Chris Schneider, Alex Wagner and the Hughes brothers, as well as many others.

Andrew remarked recently while touring Vegreville, "Boy, has this town ever changed since 1908!"

Riley, Earle Kenneth

I was born November 18, 1926, in a log farm home near Tyndall, Manitoba, and was the first-born of Wilbert William Riley and Ellen S. Anderson. My father died just before my third birthday leaving my mother a very young widow with two small boys. My brother is about 10 months younger than I. He and I lived with mother until I went to the Canadian Army during the war and I served about two years before being demobilized in late 1945. I joined the R.C.M.P. May 19, 1947, at Winnipeg and, of course, was sent to Regina and then to Ottawa for training. After completing my first-part training I was sent to Saskatoon, Rosetown, and finally on the 23 December to Edmonton, Alberta. I remained in Edmonton until February, 1948, at which time I was sent to Regina to complete my part-two training. I then returned to Edmonton and after a few months at Hardisty was sent to Vegreville in August, 1947. I was investigating some complaint of missing grain from a nearby farm, and had occasion to call at an elevator at which Joe Dubuc was grain buyer. A short time later I met him at the Vegreville Armouries at a dance on October 31, at which time he introduced me

to his young sister, Marie Yvonne Therese (Terry) Dubuc. We struck up a rather lasting interest and upon completion of my five years service I married her at St. Martin's in Vegreville on May 20, 1952. I had been transferred to Vermilion in late 1949 and was then sent to take charge of St. Albert Detachment on March 19, 1951. Needless to say, after we were married Terry joined me at St. Albert at which point we resided until August, 1956. We were in Breton for awhile and I was promoted to Corporal. This was during the oil boom and the opening of the Keystone and Pembina Oil Fields. Between Drayton Valley and Breton Detachments we had a rather hectic time. In March, 1958, I was sent to take charge of Redwater. By this time we had adopted a son Kevin Christopher, and after we were at Redwater a couple years, we



14984 Cst. K. E. Riley, Vegreville, 1949.

adopted a daughter, Diana Louise, and this completed our family. I stayed in Redwater for five years and then was transferred to Edmonton General Investigation Section. This is commonly referred to as a detective branch by other police forces. That fall I was promoted to Sgt. and was once again working in the same office as Jack Hovey who had been promoted to Sgt. earlier. Jack later left for a new posting as a Section N.C.O. and, when the man in charge of the office got a commission and was promoted to a Sub-Inspector, I took his position. Jack and I were sent to a Police College Course in Regina that fall and we were both promoted to Staff. Sgt. We also met Sgt. Jack Kenny at Canadian Police College. He had been stationed with us at Vegreville so old friends got together once again. He was also promoted to Staff. Sgt. later and since then we have all retired on pension. I retired in 1969.

I moved to Lethbridge with my family in August, 1969, while on pension leave and started up the first College Law Enforcement Program in Western Canada and, of course, I was the first instructor. The program started with 10 students with one instructor and we now have about 75 students and 4 instructors. We also teach the law enforcement course to many persons becoming Wildlife Officers, Park Officers, Fishery Officers and so on. I continue to teach at the College, Lethbridge Community College.

Kevin was born August 25, 1947, and Diana January 12, 1960. Terry, my wife, died suddenly of a heart attack September 30, 1975, and is buried in Vegreville.

Terry had been a Cubmaster at St. Albert and I was Scoutmaster. We were always actively involved in each of the communities where we lived during our married life. I have been an active Lion for many years and have often met Mr. and Mrs. Chester Novakowski and Lawton Westrom of Vegreville.

During the Queen's visit in 1973, both Terry and I were presented to Her Majesty and party at Calgary, and then later we attended the state banquet in her honour. At that time I was President of the Lethbridge Division R.C.M.P. Veterans' Association.

My only brother, Roy, mentioned above, visited me at Vegreville and worked for Walden at the garage for awhile. Walden ran the John Deere. Roy liked what he saw of my job and later joined the R.C.M.P. After training, all of his service was spent in Ottawa where he recently retired with the rank of Staff. Sgt. He lives in Ottawa and owns a small summer resort about 60 miles out of the city.

While driving around Vegreville one night on patrol and checking the various properties as required, I happened to stop and check the John Deere Shop and looked inside to see if all was well. I



Sgt. (Red) A. A. Cantrill (r) and Cst. J. R. Hovey, Vegreville, 1949.

noticed a small flame was just starting on a wall and called Mr. Walden. He and I were able to get the fire out before any damage was done. The shop was full of a number of Oil Exploration trucks and the battery on one was being recharged. The wire shorted and caused the fire. The garage was not fully insured for this very valuable lot of vehicles and the owner was very thankful. This was certainly a time the late police patrol paid off.

The good Sgt. A. A. (Red) Cantrill was like a father to me and helped me to learn my job well. I was stationed in Vermilion under one Cpl. Fred Steininger. He married a Vegreville girl, Esther Knies. Fred also helped me in my growth and I sure needed it during the years to come which were rather hectic. Fred also retired as a Staff. Sgt. I last saw him a couple of years ago at an R.C.M.P. Veterans' Conference in Winnipeg. He and Esther live in Calgary.

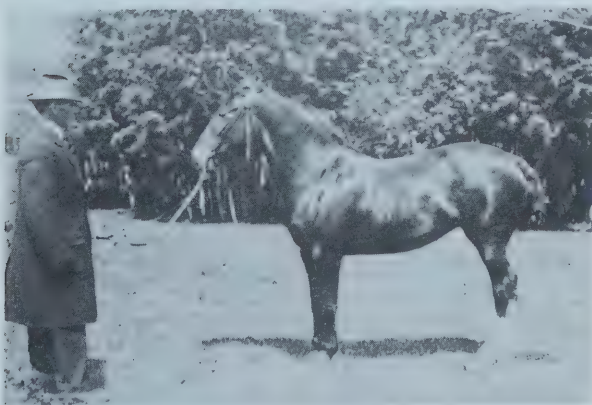
In closing I should say the Vegreville girl I married was a good wife for a policeman to have and she forgave me for the drunks yelling in the cells, the late dinners, the missed dinners, and the many phone calls that came during the night. She had a rather good indoctrination at St. Albert as it was a rather busy place then. Ted Tetreau was a Town Councillor there at the time and he was rather uncertain if one so young as I could handle the town. He later agreed I did it rather well.

Roberts, Burk and Cora Jeannette (McNaughton)

by Burnett Roberts and Sycily Lattimore

Born at Henrietta, Texas, December 9, 1885, Burk Roberts came to Canada and homesteaded at Innisfree in 1905. Joining him in various ranching and livestock activities, were his father, Jimmie Roberts, and brother, Thomas Waggoner Roberts. With some business interests in Edmonton, Burk became acquainted with Cora McNaughton, born at Breckenridge, Minnesota, U.S.A., April 20, 1884, who was living at Fort Saskatchewan. They were married in May, 1911. Burk owned and managed the Alberta and Prince Edward Hotels in Vegreville. Their son, Burnett Burk, was born July 4, 1912, and the family continued to reside at The Alberta (we think that Burk may have built the hotel, which originally was a frame building). He was anxious to see Vegreville grow and catered to the "drummers" by furnishing guns and shells for duck-hunts. Later he employed Mr. and Mrs. Joe Painter to manage the hotels and he farmed and ranched on land that cornered the Town of Vegreville section on the southwest, where the Roberts home still stands. Burnett recalls walking to school . . . he also delivered cream to several families in town (the A. W. Frasers, Hurlburts, etc.) — two pints at a time for which he received 25¢ each. Sometimes he rode horseback to school. Attending Vegreville schools through grade five, he remembers that Marge Fraser Shaw and Miss Dinwoodie were two of his teachers.

During World War I years Burk raised Shorthorn cattle and grain. We also recall some fine horses — hackneys and Shetlands. Memories of the cutter and buggy and first automobiles . . . first radio reception, with earphones; Havana, Cuba, was best received



Thomas (Tom) Waggoner Roberts — about 1918, Burk Roberts' farm near Vegreville. Tom was Burk's older brother. They both homesteaded at Innisfree and engaged in livestock activities at Vegreville. Tom is shown with one of their hackneys. (Tom later ranched at Lloydminster).

station . . . Maude Roberts, Burk's sister, came from Texas by train for a visit and brought a loud speaker for the radio.

Their daughter, Sycily Jeanette, was born February 28, 1921. Dr. August Couillard was the attending physician. Frequent visitors with the family were Burk's parents, Jimmie and Leora Roberts, from Amarillo, Texas. In 1925 the family went to Texas to visit Burk's father during his last illness, and then in 1926 the family moved to stay. Burk was involved with drilling for oil during the Borger, Texas, "boom" and later went into farming and livestock work at Levelland and Lubbock, Texas, where Burnett joined him. For a number of years, Burk kept the Vegreville farm (leased to Hans Mayer and managed by A. W. Fraser) and most every summer he and Cora with Sycily would return for a visit. Sycily attended school one fall in Vegreville and fondly recalls Miss Ada Wright as her teacher.

Burk died January 25, 1961, and Cora died April 8, 1961.

Burnett married Martha Greening of Amarillo, Texas; their son, Burk Burnett, is deceased — his three daughters are René Roberts Hill, Stacy Leigh and Jo Burk Roberts. Their daughter is Mrs. George Evelyn Johnson and her daughter is Jamie Jené Johnson.

Sycily is married to James P. Lattimore; their four children are: James P., Jr. (J. P., III and Alexis Leigh); Carroll Burk (Leslie Ann and Burk Burnett); Sycily Ann Lattimore Gregory; Sarah Jeanette Lattimore Thompson.

Burnett is retired from farming and insurance; his address is Drawer U, Levelland, TX 79336. (Phone (806) 894 4020)

Sycily retired May, 1979, as a business management instructor, South Plains College; her address is: Route 1, Box 325, Levelland, TX 79336, (Phone (806) 894 3694)

From notes written by Burk B. Roberts concerning the life of his father, Jimmie (James Reynolds) Roberts. These paragraphs were written in March 1944, describing Jimmie Roberts' buffalo hunting activities on the Texas prairies and subsequent events related to Vegreville and surrounding areas:

"I (Burk Roberts) was fortunate in being a witness with my father, Jimmie Roberts, in seeing the Canadian government unload over three hundred head of buffalo at Lamont, Alberta, Canada, in 1908.

"The animals had been purchased from a Mexican by the name of Pablo at Kalispell, Montana, U.S.A.; they were loaded on cars there and shipped by rail to Lamont. The Canadian government had



Burk Roberts' farm home (still standing near Veg.) about 1917. Burk and Cora Roberts; his father Jimmie R. Roberts, Burnett Roberts, Tom Roberts and Joe Painter, who managed the hotel for Burk.

fenced a township (36 sections) of land in what is known as the Beaver(hill) Lake district, an old timber reserve. They had built a woven wire fence near ten feet high around this block of land and had built a lane five miles long to get the buffalo to the pasture after unloading.

"As Jimmie and I had traveled through this part of the country and knew what it was like, he said that these buffalo would never do any good in this kind of country — for there was too much timber and marshy land. Jimmie had learned that buffalo were accustomed to hard range country and would only stay in the open — also it was necessary that they stay on hard ground as their feet would get bad if they stayed on soft, wet land.

"When the older bulls were loaded, it was necessary to tie each one in the railroad car; otherwise they would kill each other on the trip. So, it was an interesting sight to see the big bulls tied in the car with a large rope; then it was necessary to cut the rope on each as they were unloaded. It would take near a day to unload a train of twenty-five cars, and when they would cut a bull loose, he would come out of the car fighting at everything that he could see. The cows and younger animals were loaded the same as cattle and stood the trip very well. Jimmie and I spent several days watching them unload the buffalo and he talked a great deal of what he had learned about the buffalo and their peculiarities.

"Every year we would make it a point to see how the herd of buffalo were getting along. After the first winter, the Canadian government had learned that they had the buffalo in the wrong kind of country. Jimmie had said this from the beginning and had talked with the men in charge about the problems he saw ahead. Since the buffalo did not do well, the officials thought it was from the trip. The animals did not gain any weight during the summer as the flies

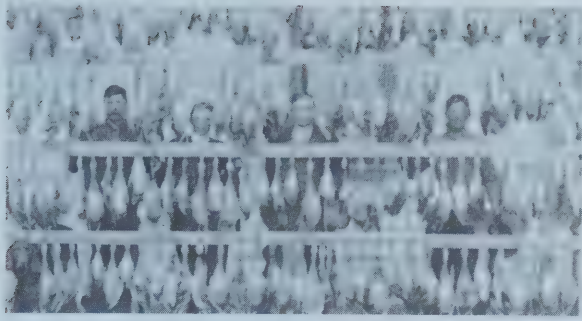
were so bad; as soon as the frost killed the grass they really began to fail and a few were dying. It became necessary for the keeper to buy a large amount of hay and put it in the pasture so the buffalo could stay alive. Since a large number died the first winter, the government began to look for country that would be more suitable for the buffalo and they decided on the Wainwright area to the southeast. This was a rolling prairie country with rocky hills and plenty of good lakes for water. This short-grass country abounded with buffalo grass. Believing that a greater area was needed, they spent some time in fencing about two townships. As soon as the pasture was fenced they undertook to gather the buffalo for the move. It was necessary to get some of the cowboys who had moved them from Montana to help gather and load them on railway cars to take them to the new location. This was a big job, as the buffalo were hard to get out of timber since they had been there long enough to learn to hide from the riders. It took several months to move what was left of the herd.

"Jimmie and I went to see the herd a few years after they had been moved to their new range. There was certainly a difference in their looks — they were fat and there were a large number of fine calves. In a few years the herd began to increase rapidly and it was necessary to take in more country for pasture; then the government began killing off some of the older ones — some of the meat was sold and some given to the Indians. There was also a good market for the hides. I have a buffalo-hide overcoat that was made in 1918 from a young cow.

"Jimmie and I made a trip to see this herd in 1918 — they had become a fine lot of animals and he said it surely made him think of his buffalo-hunting days. We spent a whole day in the park and it was interesting to hear him tell of the days when he had killed buffalo. As he stated, this Wainwright country of Alberta was an ideal spot for the herd as they were increasing rapidly. By this time the herd numbered over one thousand head of fine animals. These big bulls would move around with their big black coats, and there were some pastures where one could not take an automobile because when the bulls saw their reflection in a car they would charge it. This resulted in a number of cars being damaged before they could get out of the way.

"This same herd has increased to several thousand. The Canadian government kills a large number every year for meat and hides and several hundred have been shipped farther north and turned loose the same as they were in the olden days. They have done very well farther north, but it is necessary for hay to be furnished for winter feed.

"It is a wonderful sight to see this fine herd of



Vegreville — 1913 — probably south side, Alberta Hotel. As owner of the hotel, Burk Roberts (second from left) and his father, Jimmie Reynolds Roberts (3rd from left) enjoyed many great duck hunts. Burk would furnish guns and ammunition for the “drummers” to join them as guests of the hotel.

buffalo, and no one should miss the opportunity of seeing the herd when they travel to Alberta, Canada. There are other animals in the park; also a large number of ducks nest there and raise their young on the lakes.”

Rodwell and Suddaby Families by Pearl Rodwell

I was born on March 11, 1904, in the Strathcona Hotel, Edmonton (south). My father, Peter Suddaby, came to Alberta from Ontario. The Suddaby family settled at McKernan Lake, which is now part of Edmonton. My mother, (Lydia Place) was born in Wisc., U.S.A.

My Dad and his brother Howard took up homesteads in 1902, ten miles south of the Village of



Leonard and Pearl Rodwell, three of their family, grandma Stone, 1954.



Fine cattle on Peter Suddaby's farm. Early 1900's.

Lavoy. Peter Suddaby and Lydia Place were married in 1903.

They broke up some of their land. There were no stores or post offices in the country. Dad and Howard Suddaby brought all their supplies from Edmonton by way of Beaver Lake with horses and wagon.

In 1905-6 Father and Howard worked on the C.N.R. railway from Edmonton to Lloydminster receiving \$1.25 a day.

Our house on the homestead was just a two-room log house with boards and shingled roof. They raised a family of four children, 1 boy and 3 girls. As we grew up we were ready for school, but there were no schools in the district at that time.

Pleasant Ridge school opened in 1914. It was four miles west of home. My brother, Bill Suddaby, and I, rode a little black pony that distance until it was too cold to ride. I was the eldest so I was sent into Lavoy to school till Christmas Holidays. I boarded with a family, the Johnson Pattersons.

I came home on Christmas Eve and said, “I will not go back”. I was a real homesick kid, only 10 years old.



Pearl Suddaby with sister Margaret, brother Bill and four cousins, about 1910.



Amy Johnson (left) and Pearl Rodwell (Suddaby), 1921.

My dad said, "We'll do something different after the holidays". He rented a house in Lavoy. Mother and family moved in, leaving Dad on the farm for the winter.

Our school district was formed in June, 1915. It was named "Aplomb". We got all our schooling there up to Grade 10. Six children attended school the first fall.

Mother (Lydia Suddaby) passed away in June, 1927, at the age of 41 years. I had to take over the house-keeping duties at the age of 23.

I married Leonard Rodwell on July 9, 1929, and moved to his farm five miles east of home, six miles southwest of Ranfurly. We raised a family of eight. They got their schooling at Aplomb until they reached high school, when they were bused into Ranfurly and Innisfree.

My husband passed away in November 27, 1967, so I moved into Vialta Lodge on January 6, 1968, and this has been my home for nearly 11 years.

My father, Peter Suddaby, passed away on New Year's Day, 1944, at the age of 69.

Rogalski, John and Annie

John came to Canada as a very young lad of eighteen months with his parents, Metrofan and Kataryna Rogalski, from the village of Konishkiw, Brody, Western Ukraine in 1905. His parents bought a homestead in the Plain Lake district which is 25 miles from Vegreville.



John and Annie (Dulaba) Rogalski, about 1940.

John married Annie Dulaba, daughter of Olexa and Maria Dulaba, in 1925. Annie came to Canada after the first World War with her mother and sister from Konishkiw, Brody, to join her father who had come to Canada before the war.

They farmed in the same district till 1940, then moved to Beauvallon where John owned an Implement Agency (John Deere machinery) and Holland Twine. During the war farm machinery was hard to get so they decided to sell and moved to Vegreville. They purchased a home and John worked for Allore's Garage as a mechanic and partsman for eleven years. They moved to Edmonton in 1956 where he was employed at Waterloo Motors until retirement. Annie was a very successful flower and vegetable gardener. John and Annie raised two daughters. Katherine married Nick Gordica.

Lillian Marie grew up in Vegreville where she completed her high school education. She then went to Edmonton to take a secretarial course at McTavish Business College, where she graduated with high honors. Lillian married Walter Hale and they and their two children, Elaine and Dennis, live in Edmonton.

Annie Rogalski passed away at the age of 56 years in 1962.

John Rogalski passed away at the age of 70 years in 1973.

Rogers, Jack

by Jack Rogers

Jack William Rogers, born March 21, 1901, at Dun's Tew, Oxfordshire, England, came to Canada in March, 1921, accompanied by his future brother-in-law, Stanley A. Walker. They obtained employment with Major J. Mc K Hughes of Old Vegreville; Jack doing tractor work and Stan doing farm chores.

The following year they rented Mr. A. M. Thompson's farms. In 1923 they bought the S½ 4-53-14 in the Brush Hill District and built a large barn, a three-roomed shack and had a well drilled.

On October 9, 1924, Nora F. Walker, Jack's fiancée, (also born at Dun's Tew) came to Canada, accompanied by her youngest brother Harry C. Walker (Bosco) age sixteen years.

Jack and Nora were married the same day, by Rev. Baker at the Anglican Church, Vegreville. The wedding was delayed, owing to the fact that Mr. Baker had gone to hear Prime Minister McKenzie King speak from the train, on a whistle stop that morning. (Nora was a little put out by the delay, especially as she had never heard of Mr. King and had no idea who he was!). After a dinner at the Alberta Hotel, the bride and groom drove out to the farm with a horse and buggy.

In 1927, they moved to a larger house, on the adjoining quarter. Their son, Roy James, was born June, 1928; Gordon William, April, 1930; Rosamond Ruth, July, 1931; and Sylvia Eileen, November, 1936.

In December, 1930, the house was gutted by fire. Jack and Nora were attending a Masonic social evening in Vegreville. Their boys were left at the home of Mr. and Mrs. William McGowan and their daughter Zaida was babysitting them, so fortunately there was no loss of life. With the help of good friends and neighbours, another house was built in a few weeks.

Nora's father, Mr. Bert Walker, came from England and made his home with the Rogers. Stan and Bosco rented and lived on the farm of Mr. Carl Handy. Later, Dad Walker lived with his sons on their farm in the Ridge Park district. He passed away in Vegreville, February, 1942.

Roy and Gordon Rogers attended the Brush Hill School when Mr. George Hosking was the teacher. Rosamond went to the convent school in Vegreville.

In 1932, Jack rented three quarters of land from

Dr. Harold Brown of Edmonton and moved on it (Hillview Farm) also in the Brush Hill District.

Jack was the secretary-treasurer of Brush Hill School from 1924 to 1944. Nora was a member of the St. Mary's Women's Auxiliary, also of the East Vegreville Farm Women's Club.

In 1944, Jack and Nora bought a half-section farm near Bentley, in the Blindman Valley, where they resided for twenty years. Jack was on the Lacombe School Board for twelve years. Nora belonged to St. Cyprians W.A., also a member of the Forshee Ladies' Club of that district and a member of the Alexandra Chapter, O.E.S. Lacombe.

Jack, Nora and Roy were presented with a certificate for attaining five gold stars in five successive years in the Farm and Home Improvement plan presented by Hon. L. C. Halmrast, Minister of Agriculture, 1954-1958.

In 1974, Jack received a plaque for being a Founding Member of the Alberta Wheat Pool. The Rogers retired from farming in 1964, and bought a home in Sidney, Vancouver Island, B.C. Jack was District Deputy Grand Master, District 4 in 1957-1958, and he received his 50-year pin from the Masonic Order in January, 1979.

Jack and Nora celebrated their Golden Wedding on October 9, 1974, with a reception in the Church Hall, Sidney, with 125 guests present. A few days later a family dinner was held at the Juniper Lodge, Lacombe and a reception at the home of Rosamond and Bob Duke.

Presently, Roy and Therese Rogers reside near Bentley. Gordon and Doreen Rogers live in Vancouver, B.C.; Rosamond and Bob Duke in Lacombe. Sylvia and Dick Clemens live in Camrose, Alberta.

Jack and Nora have fourteen grandchildren and two great-grandsons.

Roth, John and Kathrina

by Mrs. Roth

My husband's father and mother, with a family of ten, came to Canada in the spring of 1906 from Cathay, North Dakota, U.S.A. They came as far as Daysland (that's as far as the railroad went). Three boys were old enough to take up homesteads, so together with their father, they took up a section. They lived in Daysland (town) until a log house was built. They had two more children making a round dozen (six have passed on). Their mother passed away at the age of 50. Their father remarried and had one more child. He passed away at the age of 87.

My parents came from North Dakota to Forestburg in October, 1910. Homesteads were gone, but they bought a quarter. My parents also raised twelve

children of which I am the oldest (eight of us are left). I am 22 years older than my youngest sister. I was carrying her along in a store one day when I was asked if we were related, I said "Yes, but distantly. I am the oldest of 12, she's the youngest." This always tickled my Dad.

In 1916 my husband and I were married in my parents' home. In 1923 we decided, after crop failures and other setbacks, to move to Vegreville as we heard it was a good farming district. We had three children by this time, ages 6, 5 and 2 years. My husband met Roy Cole who told him that his brother George needed a man. We moved with a sort of a caboose (a frontier-style mobile home) which we lived in for nearly a summer. In late fall, we moved onto the St. Peter Place at Lavoy. (I think later Mr. Gienger bought it) and we farmed six years. Then we moved onto Mr. Doherty's place in Ranfurly where we lived for six years. Then on to a place about two miles out of Ranfurly and back again into the Victory district where we bought a farm. Depression had been in full force during this time and when work ran out in one place you packed up and moved to another.

Some very strong friendship ties were made. We were especially good friends with the Coles. Never a hard word of disagreement between us. We still are very good friends and only the last few years sort of drifted apart. My husband worked for Roy many times and he always treated us well. Same with Mrs. Cole. We almost got to be like sisters.

Well, we farmed in the Victory district for about 20 years. In this time, we had acquired two more sons, three of our children married and we became grandparents. In 1964 we sold and bought a half-section of land in the Dewberry district (Vermilion County) with our youngest boy. He showed no interest in farming, so Lloyd, our oldest son, gave up his job in the City (Edmonton) and took over the farm.

Nearly five years ago, we decided to move off the farm. Neither one was in good health and age was catching up too. So we looked around for a place to settle and finally decided on Viking. It seemed the center for all to come and visit and we are very contented. Three years ago Lloyd decided to rent out his land and has ever since. He bought the house we were renting and now we make our home with him.

The Lord has been good to us in many ways. On August 1 it was three years since we had our 60th anniversary celebration. We have had our share of sickness and other setbacks, but have always rallied. We have 5 children, 4 are married; 13 grandchildren, with 8 married (so quite a few in-laws); 24 great-grandchildren, and one great-great-granddaughter, all of whom treat us very well. We are more than

thankful to the Lord that so far none have been taken of our outsized family.

Our twilight years are serene. We spend them in each other's presence. We have our hobby projects, read and watch some TV. We are also very glad that so many friends and relatives take the time to drop in. We know no "generation gap". We are visited by young and old alike.

Ruryk, Anna **by Alfred Macyk**

Anna Ruryk came to Canada in 1913, accompanied by her parents, Nick and Helen Ruryk, and her two sisters, Kalyna and Dorothy. Being citizens of the Austrian-Hungarian Empire, they encountered considerable difficulty while in England, as antagonism and hostility was growing in Europe prior to World War I. Fortunately, they were able to get to Canada in time. Anna came to Vegreville and stayed at one of the church homes with her sister.

Prokip Macyk came to Canada earlier, but did not come to Alberta until 1907. He came to work for the C.P.R. in Lethbridge.

Having heard that some Ukrainians from his homeland village of Wolchkiwtsi, Sniatyn, had settled around Vegreville, he decided to join them.

He met Anna Ruryk, daughter of Helen (Triska) and Nick Ruryk. They got married in 1915 and settled on a farm north-east of Vegreville.

Their first son Bill was born in 1917. Their second son Andrew was born in 1919. They gave up farming then, and Prokip Macyk worked on the railroad at Rosevear, Dapp, and finally at Lac La Biche. Their third son, Nick, was born at Dapp. They purchased a farm with a small house at Radway. The farm had very little land cleared, as usual when they moved onto it, where their fourth son Alfred was born in 1924. They moved back to Lac La Biche and Prokip worked on the railway till they moved back to the farm in 1927. They cleared and broke a lot of land in 1928 and had a very big wheat crop in 1929, but after the economic crash of 1929, they received little for the wheat. Their fifth and last son, Peter, was born in 1929, and with a family of five boys and a semi-developed homestead they settled in to face the depression years. Anna did not enjoy good health throughout the 1930's. She worked hard and always devoted herself to her family and church. She never forgot the good treatment she received at the church home in Vegreville. Anna's health deteriorated rapidly until she died on October 15, 1949, at the early age of 49. Prokip passed away January 19, 1964, at the age of 79. Their family of five sons remains. They are Bill, Andrew, Nick, Alfred and Peter.

Bill married Julia Onyschuk of Radway in 1941, settled on a farm in the Waskatenau district and they have three sons. Orest married Jean Skuba and they have one daughter, Lynne. Orest is employed as an Administration officer by the Farm Credit Corporation. Taras (Terry) married Christine Gural of Edmonton (daughter of Father Gural, Edmonton Ukrainian Greek Catholic diocese). They have one son, Michael. Terry is a graduate of the University of Alberta in agriculture, majoring in soils and has a Master's degree from the University of Alberta. He is employed by the Research Council of Alberta. Kenny married Vivian Wenger of Radway and they have one son Kelly. Kenny is completing his apprenticeship as a heavy-duty mechanic.

Andrew is single. He worked away from home in his early years after finishing school. He spent several seasons working for the Nick and Mary Cherniawsky family at Mundare. Then he settled on a farm with his father and brother Nick in the Radway district and is still there; thinking of retirement soon.

Nick is single. After finishing school he served in the army 1943-45. He settled on the home farm in 1947 and is still there. Nick worked with Prairie Farm Assistance for many years as an adjuster and reporter throughout Northern Alberta.

Alfred married Sophie Janezewski of Evansburg. He served in the Royal Canadian Airforce 1942-1945, with overseas service 1943-1945. He settled on a farm in the Waskatenau district in 1947. He served as a councillor and reeve in the municipal district of Smoky Lake 1953-60. He was a member of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta, 1955-1959. He left the farm in 1960 and took employment with the Veterans Land Administration and later transferred to Farm Credit Corporation where he is still employed as a District supervisor. He lives in Edmonton. They have a family of four sons. Don married Marilyn Gray. They have two children, Jennifer and Tim. Don graduated from the University of Alberta in Agriculture, majoring in economics and is now employed by the Province of Alberta in foreign marketing. Gary is single, lives at Waskatenau, and works for Waskatenau Motors as a partsman. Douglas is single, lives in Edmonton and works for Alberta Concrete Products as a scaler and truck foreman. Peter is single, lives in Edmonton and works for Northland Lincoln Mercury as an apprentice mechanic.

Peter married Lois Woznak of Thorhild. After finishing school he lived on a farm alongside his father and brothers, Nick and Andrew. He went to work for the County of Thorhild as a Field Supervisor. Following several years at that job, he took assessment courses and became an assessor of the

Municipal District of Morinville. They live in Thorhild and have a family of three daughters. Marie graduated from the University of Alberta with a degree in Education and married Warren Shaw. They lived in Edmonton. Peggy is in her fourth year at University of Alberta in the Faculty of Education. She is married to Sydney Shwetz of Thorhild. Paulette is attending school and lives with her parents in Thorhild. Peter, Lois and the girls have been very active members and workers in 4-H clubs in Thorhild.

Ruryk, John and Nancy (Melnik) by Elsie Verwijk

John Ruryk was the only son and third child of Helen (Triska) and Nick Ruryk. He was born in 1896 in Wolchkiwtsi, Sniatyn, Ukraine, and when he was 16 years old, decided to venture out to Canada, where some of his relatives were. He arrived in 1912 at Vegreville and stayed with his sister Mary and husband Nick Cherniawsky temporarily.

He pursued further studies from the Boys' Residence in Vegreville where he took his High School. He later obtained his Teacher's Certificate from Camrose Normal School and taught at Sich, Shepenitz, and Kolomea.

In the 1920's, he worked for the C.P.R. Immigration Department, later for a bank at Radway, then at Vegreville.

In 1929, he moved to Saskatchewan where he worked for the C.P.R. Immigration Department. When that office closed, he worked in Saskatoon, then in Moose Jaw.

John Ruryk married Nancy Melnyk. They had four children, John, Ernest, Jean and May, all of whom are married and reside in Vancouver.

John retired in Vancouver and passed away in 1977.

Ruryk, Nick and Helen (Triska) by Elsie Verwijk

Helen Triska, oldest child of Alexis Louis Triska and Anne Didyk, was born in 1872 in Wolchkiwtsi, Sniatyn, Ukraine. She had two sisters, Dora (Hymanyk) and Kalyna (Cherniawsky), and two brothers, William and Peter.

She married Nick Ruryk and they have five children, Mary (1891), John (1896), Anne (1900), Kalyna (1902), and Dorothy (1903).

In 1907, their oldest daughter Mary Ruryk at sixteen years of age, decided to join her grandfather Louis Triska and Aunt Dora with Uncle Mike Hymanyk and Uncles William and Peter Triska when they left for Canada. They came by boat to Halifax



Nick Ruryk, in "old country" prior to coming to Canada, with wife Helen (Triska), 1912.

and by train West to Vermilion, Alberta, where they were met by relatives. Mary went to live with her Aunt and Uncle, Tom and Kate Didyk. In 1908 she married Nick Cherniawsky.

In 1912 John Ruryk, at sixteen years of age, left for Canada.

By 1913 Helen and Nick Ruryk decided they would emigrate to Canada and took with them their three remaining children — Anna (Macyk), Kalyna (Zaseybida) and Dorothy (Hutzulak). Being citizens of the Austrian-Hungarian Empire, they encountered considerable difficulty in England, as antagonism and hostility were growing in Europe prior to World War I. They were detained in England for six weeks, but fortunately were able to get to Canada safely. They also settled in the Vegreville area.

In 1914 Nick Ruryk decided to return to the "old country", first by himself, and then the rest of the family would join him later when he could send them money for their fares. World War I (1914-1919) unfortunately changed all plans.

By 1922 Helen Ruryk was ready to return to the homeland to join her husband. None of the children wished to leave by then so she went alone. She stayed in Wolchkiwtsi, Sniatyn, Ukraine with her husband Nick until his death in 1928.

She returned to Vegreville, Alberta in 1932 to be near her children and grandchildren. She passed away in 1953 at the age of 81 years.



In Sniatyn, Ukraine, prior to the departure of Mr. and Mrs. Nick Ruryk (Helen Triska) to Canada, 1912. Relatives came to bid farewell.



Nick and Helen (Triska) Ruryk children, approximately 1920. Back row (l. to r.) — Anne (Macyk), Kalyna (Zaseybida), Dorothy (Hutzulak). Front row (l. to r.) — Mary (Cherniawski), John Ruryk, unknown.

John Ruryk was the only son and third child of Helen (Triska) Ruryk and Nick Ruryk. He was born in 1896 in Wolchiwtsi, Sniatyn, Ukraine, and when he was sixteen years old, decided to venture to Canada, where some of his relatives were. He arrived in 1912 at Vegreville and stayed with his sister Mary and husband Nick Cherniawsky temporarily.



Helen (Triska) Ruryk and daughter Dorothy (Hutzulak), in Canada, 1921.

He pursued further studies from the Boys' residence in Vegreville where he took his High School. He later obtained his Teacher's Certificate from Camrose Normal School and taught at Sich, Shepenitz and Kolomea.

In the 1920's he worked for the C.P.R. Immigration Department, later for a Bank at Radway, then at Vegreville.

In 1929 he moved to Saskatchewan where he worked for the C.P.R. Immigration Department. When that office closed, he worked in Saskatoon, then in Moose Jaw.

John Ruryk married Nancy Melnyk. They had four children: John, Ernest, Jean and May, all of whom are married and reside in Vancouver.

John retired in Vancouver and passed away in 1977.

Ruryk, Nick and Mary

Nick Ruryk, older brother of Bill, was also sponsored by his uncle William Triska, and arrived in Canada in July, 1928. He was met at the CNR train station in Vegreville by Dan Triska.

In 1930, after doing farm work around Vegreville for Bill Salamandick and his Uncle Bill, Nick went to work for the CPR at Turin in southern Alberta.

On November 25, 1934, Nick married Mary Zmurchyk, daughter of Mike and Mary Zmurchyk of Lethbridge, who had emigrated from Bebeluya, Ukraine. Nick and Mary settled in Iron Springs, Alberta, where Nick worked for the CPR as a section-man. Nick and Mary frequently visited Bill Triska in Vegreville who was to Nick a second father, for it was he who gave Nick the opportunity to make a life for himself in Canada.

In 1936, Nick and Mary purchased a home in Picture Butte, Alberta, where Nick continued to work for the CPR and also for the Canadian Sugar Factory when work was not available on the CPR.

In 1944, Nick and Mary bought a farm two miles from Lethbridge which they farmed during the periods 1944-1946 and 1949-1951. While on the farm, he worked for the CPR during the winter months as a section patrolman with responsibility of the Lethbridge to Monarch line. During this period Nick also worked at the coal mine in Shaunessy, Alberta, as well.

From 1947-1948 Nick and Mary resided in Lethbridge where Nick was employed full-time by the CPR as a disc machine operator, a position which took him around all of southern Alberta and the southern portions of Saskatchewan and B.C.

In 1950, Nick suffered a stroke from which he recovered. However, the illness necessitated lighter duties and he was transferred to Calgary by the CPR



Nick and Mary Ruryk's home near Lethbridge. (l. to r.) — Bill Ruryk, Nick Ruryk, Anne (Russell) Goshko, Mary (Nick) Ruryk, Pauline Triska, Alex Sawchuk, girls Christine Goshko, Rosemarie Sawchuk, 1950.



Nick and Mary Ruryk, Alison and baby Moira Verwijk, Victor Ruryk, Elsie Verwijk, 1963.

where he lived and worked as a watchman and janitor until his retirement in 1971.

Nick and Mary had two children:

Marjorie — obtained her teaching certificate from the U. of A., Calgary. She is married to Cal Harris and has three sons, Dale, David, and Darcy Kaminski.

Victor — obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree in Zoology from the University of Washington, Seattle, Wash.

Nick and Mary reside in Calgary, but have fond memories of their relatives and friends from the Vegreville area.

Ruryk, Wasyl (Bill)

Bill Ruryk was born in the Village of



A visit to Bill Ruryk's home in Lethbridge. Sitting (l. to r.) — Mary Ruryk, Bill Ruryk, Nick Ruryk. Standing (l. to r.) — Elsie (Triska) Verwijk, Mike and Mary Smurchyk, Lena (Triska) Sawchuk, Pauline Triska, 1976.

Wolchkiwtsi, Sniatyn, W. Ukraine on January 15, 1909, third child of Mike Ruryk and Maria Kuzniuk.

His uncle (William Triska) invited and sponsored him to come to Canada to take advantage of the good life here. After travelling to Montreal by boat, he made the rest of the trip out west by C.N.R. He arrived in Vegreville on January 28, 1927 where he was welcomed by the William Triska family. This was his home for many years to come.

Bill worked at farming for several years, working for Bill Salamandick and Alex Melnychuk and helping his Uncle Bill.

In 1933 he got a job at Iron Springs, Alberta, working for the C.P.R. as a section man.

In 1936 Bill and his brother Nick were joined by Mike Triska in the sugar beet factory in Picture Butte, Alberta. During the winter months when work was slack, Bill and Mike came "home". There was lots of music, singing, and fun; not to mention the hockey games, the practical jokes, the "Malonkas", the dances, and card games.

Bill worked with a C.P.R. section gang until 1943 when he fell from a boxcar. He then took a position at Lethbridge as caretaker in the winter and gardener in the summer. At first he was known as the C.P.R.'s travelling gardener, tending to station gardens at Lethbridge, Fort Macleod and High River, as well as the superintendent's company-owned home in Lethbridge. Mr. Ruryk, a self-taught gardener, studied his job by visiting other well-planned gardens in Calgary and Banff. He won a number of commercial class prizes and continuous recognition from his C.P.R. superiors. His gardens were praised on numerous

occasions with publications in the Lethbridge Herald, Calgary Albertan, and the Spanner, a C.P.R. employees publication. Bill stayed with the C.P.R. until 1968 when he was forced to retire due to illness.

With his relatives living around Vegreville, Bill visited the area at every opportunity.

Bill Ruryk died November 28, 1978, and was buried in his "home town" of Vegreville, Alberta.

Rush, Dr. W. T.

by Marjorie Hulett

In the early years Dr. Rush practised at Old Vegreville and later in New Vegreville after the town was moved. Neighbours who were here at the turn of the century told of Dr. Rush doctoring them in 1902 though he may have been here earlier. He moved to Leduc but was only there a short time when Dr. A. E. Archer asked him to join him in a new hospital in Lamont sponsored by the Methodist Missionary Society; that was in 1912. Dr. Rush continued there until 1928 when he retired; he died in 1935. During that interval he made several trips to the Orient.

I recall having heard Dr. Rush was a wonderful diagnostician; he and Mrs. Rush were truly Christian people taking an active part in the church and everything pertaining to the hospital or health. Their home was always open to student nurses; they gave many a girl a home away from home. The Rush's only had one child, Raymond, who is also a doctor; he is at the West Coast now.

Ryan, Samuel and Jeanie

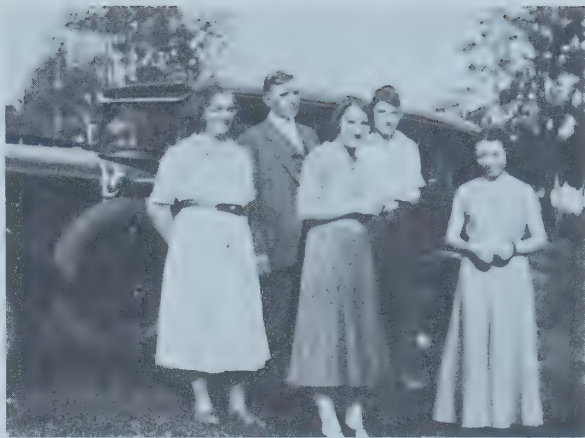
Samuel James Ryan (1877-1958) was a son of Irish immigrants who came to Canada in 1841, and settled in Ontario. He arrived with his parents in 1895 at Strathcona, Alberta.

Sam developed a homestead, 25 miles north-west of Edmonton; this he traded for two sections of good virgin land south of Lavoy in 1915.

Much of the home section was broken with four horses and a breaker, after cutting the poplar and willow brush with axes the winter before. To farm, in the end, he was using 36 head of horses, in six- and eight-horse outfits, till in the second World War; he had to burn off 200 acres of prime wheat, as it could not be harvested for lack of manpower. He then turned to mechanized machinery.

Over the years he acquired four more quarters of land, before retiring in Edmonton.

Jeanie (Kelly) Ryan (1886-1957) was a daughter of Scottish immigrants to Kansas, U.S.A. She was a niece of Miss Agnes Baird, first Matron of the Vegreville R.M.B. Hospital. Jeanie arrived in Strathcona, Alberta, with her parents from Kansas in



Ryan family, about 1940.



Mrs. Ryan, Palma Blackburn, Edna and Agnes Ryan, children — Beatrice Morris and Marian Blackburn, about 1927.

1903. Her father bought the Ryan's out. She married one of the Ryan sons, Samuel in 1905. Edna, Agnes and Stanley are their children.

The Ryans worked on and supported many of the community projects in Lavoy, such as the church, community hall, curling rink.

Edna Ryan married Boyd Tuck, twin brother to Floyd Tuck of Lavoy, Alberta.

Sakaluk, Safroni and Annie

by Mary (Sakaluk) Tetreau

The opening of a new country, Canada, was well publicized in many European countries including Ukraine, that was under Austro-Hungarian occupation. A large wave of emigrants surged to this new land of opportunity. One of them was Safroni Sakaluk, born in the Village of Shepentsi, Western

Ukraine on Sept. 21, 1878. He married Annie Yermichuk, born Aug. 27, 1887 in the same village, in the Church of the Blessed Virgin, on Oct. 14, 1904. A daughter, Elizabeth, was born on Nov. 12, 1905, and a son, William, on Dec. 14, 1906. In 1907 Safroni left his wife and children at home and sailed to Canada to join his brother John, who had been in Canada since 1905. Not knowing the language, his life was not easy, but since John had established himself he helped Safroni get a job in a smelting plant for a year. He also worked in a restaurant in Spokane for a while, then in 1910 got a homestead, (160 acres of land for \$10.00) in the Hairy Hill district, where some friends and relatives had settled earlier. He then went back to Ukraine and in six weeks (the middle of June, 1910) was back in Canada with his family on the Cunard Ship Lines — landed in Halifax, then on to Winnipeg by C.P.R. then to Vegreville by C.N.R. Vegreville then was a small village with a few stores, a hotel, and a Massey Harris machinery shop. Here Dad bought a wagon, a yoke of oxen, a plow and drove with the family to the homestead. He stayed with an uncle (Mr. and Mrs. Safroni Greckol) for a few weeks till a dug-out shelter was made with log supports and covered with sod for a roof to keep the rain away; candles and wicks in grease was the only light. Then he started on a permanent home — 17 x 14 ft. — one room; hauling logs from the forest for the shell of the home, using no nails but cutting U's at the end of each log to lock them together and using wooden pegs to pin logs through the middle by first making holes with an auger. The ceiling and roof were made with thinner poles — the roof was topped with sheaves of straw laid so well no rain went through — the walls and ceiling were plastered with clay and straw tramped by feet into a plaster which when dried left it hard and shiny. He bought the windows and doors from Vegreville. Thanks to neighbors and relatives for their generous help, the family moved into the home before the cold weather



Although the sign above the store says Vegreville Produce, this was a Book Store with Safroni Sakaluk standing in the doorway (of the middle store) and his daughter Alice (Elizabeth) to his left, 1922.

set in. Then he splurged a bit and got a cooking range for the house, also a coal oil lamp as well as a team of horses. Dad was fortunate to get a job as a farm hand and storekeeper — this helped the very poor living conditions. He soon bought a cow, a sow and some chickens at a church social and grew some vegetables. Meat was provided by hunting partridges, rabbits, grouse, ducks and ice fishing. He had to buy sugar, salt, coal oil and rice and some fruit at Xmas. As more land was cultivated and more machinery bought, the family also expanded, John was born Jan. 18, 1911, George was born March 24, 1912, Harry was May 23, 1916, and Mary born Sept. 12, 1919. By then the house was extended by a large living room, kitchen, bedroom and also a utility room. Besides farming Dad got a well-drilling outfit, and drilled wells in the district. This was not a profitable venture, because lots of natural gas was found before water, some soft coal (not enough and not good enough for operation) and also some springs that flowed for a few years, then dried. In 1920 Dad sold the farm and moved to Vegreville and operated a livery barn by his home (2 blocks N on 49 Ave. and 1 block North-East of the present Lane residence — then occupied by Z. Drapaka) until 1925 and at the same time operated a Book Store located north of the tracks on Main Street. He later moved one block north and expanded to a general store, where the present water tower is and was helped by Elizabeth and William till his death in 1926. The store was operated by William and Mr. S. Eliuk till about 1930 when the store burned down. Steve was born January 7, 1922.

Mother Annie Sakaluk Melnychuk lives in New Westminster, B.C. with her daughter Elizabeth; she's a great-great Grandmother — five generations numbering seventy-five descendants.

William and wife Ann operate Vegreville Health Supplies in Vegreville.

John and Sonia live in Two Hills; their son, Gene, is proprietor of Gene's Electric Vegreville Ltd.

George and Natalie live in Vancouver, B.C.

Harry passed away on October 12, 1970; he was married to Alice Bohaychuk and they raised a family of four in Vegreville.

Mary and Ray Tetreau lived in Vegreville.

Steve passed away on September 30, 1974.

Salamandick, Nick and Mary

by Anne Salamandick

Nick, the second son of Ivan (John) and Katryna (Katherine) Salamandick, was born in 1891 in the village of Senkiw, Western Ukraine.

Ivan and Katryna left Ukraine in 1900 to seek their fortune in Canada. They had settled near Sarto, Manitoba, where they remained for a few years.

Other relatives and friends were leaving for the West; and the Salamandicks with their four sons and two daughters moved West too. They arrived at Chauvin, Alberta, where they remained for a short while, then moved on to Cadogan, staying there for two years. During this time Nick went back to Manitoba for the winter. After the two years they moved once again, to the area now known as Hemaruka.

Their first home was built of sod and finished with mud packed in crevices and later the inside was whitewashed. Cooking and baking was done in an oven ("peeche") made of earth and mud-plastered to a smooth finish. A good fire was made inside and maintained until a good layer of the interior wall was thoroughly heated. Then the embers and ashes were thoroughly cleaned out and the pans of bread or pots of food were pushed in on a long paddle into the depths of the "oven". Then the opening was closed and the cooking (baking) proceeded. This oven was approximately eight feet deep. The area behind the chimney part was wide and flat and served as a cosy place to sleep, since space was at a premium.

Breaking land was no easy task, as equipment was limited and oxen were used to pull it. It was possible to cultivate only a relatively small area for the grain. The soil was not of the best quality either. Flour mills were a great distance away, so people had to improvise. Mr. Salamandick constructed a wind-powered flour mill built on a round wooden track. It looked like one of those Dutch mills. It was turned on the track so that it faced the wind. The plates were made out of hard rock. They were round and balanced. One plate was stationary while the top one would rotate. A sack was held below to catch the flow of flour. Many neighbors and relatives came to use the facility.

Roads in these areas were trails, worn in time by the vehicles of transportation — "democrat" buggy, or wagon in the earliest days. Trees were rather sparse so the winds blew freely carrying away much of the soil. There were some birds, though not a great variety, and of the animal life there were the ever-present gophers, some badgers, rabbits, coyotes and antelope.

The nearest medical assistance was about thirty-five miles away at Coronation. Any emergencies or deliveries were dealt with in the home. In 1913 they built a new home of lumber. It was comparatively spacious and comfortable.

It was in 1912 that their son, Nick, made the trip to Vegreville to attend his older brother Bill's wedding. It was there that he met Mary Porayko, who became his bride on October 18, 1913. Their honeymoon trip, as such, was by wagon from her parents' home near Royal Park to Hemaruka. It took the better



The Nick Salamandick family. Front — Mr. and Mrs. Nick Salamandick (on their 50th Wedding Anniversary) 1963. Children (l. to r.) — Alice, Ray, Anne, Walter, Nataka.

part of a week to make the trip, sleeping outside, since there were no such luxuries as motels or hotels on the way.

They lived with the senior Salamandicks as did Bill's wife Pearl (while he worked in Vegreville). Nick and Mary had their first four children in that home — Anne, Raymond, Johnny (died in infancy) and Walter. In 1916, Bill purchased land near Vegreville and moved his family there.

Their sister Mary married John Sytnyk and made their home just a mile away. They had one son and three daughters. John Sytnyk died fairly young. After a few years Mary moved to Vernon.

In a few years Dave and Anna both left for the Vegreville area. Anna married Andrew Manyluk and they settled on a farm just north of Vegreville. Dave married Sophie Cherniawsky. They lived for a while with Bill and Pearl, then moved onto a farm just west of Vegreville. They had one son and two daughters. About 1939 they moved to Holden.

Joe, the youngest of the brothers, spent a few years with his parents, then he too made his way to Vegreville but did not stay very long. He found work near Lacombe, where he met Lena Dick. They married and made their home there. They have three sons and two daughters.

It was 1922 when Nick and Mary Salamandick made the move to the Vegreville district too. (The land in Hemaruka was gradually becoming more impoverished and, in those days, there was no such thing as fertilizer one could purchase to help.) They settled about a mile from her parents' home. She had three sisters and two brothers. ■



First self-propelled combine, 1945. Truck 1946. Ray Salamandick on combine.

Her younger sister Pearl married Steve Yahnitsky and lived in Royal Park. They had two daughters.

Her sister, Anna, married Stephen Porayko (no relative). They farmed about half a mile away. They had four daughters.

Mary's brother, Bill Porayko, married Anne Melnyk. He taught school, so they lived in several districts over the years, finally coming back to the farm. They had two sons.

Her brother John remained to run the farm as their father had passed away. During this time he met and married Julia Duke. They had one daughter. Soon after his mother passed on, they moved to Royal Park and brother Bill Porayko took over the farm.

Hilda, their youngest sister, married Nick Kasian and they farmed west of Vegreville. They had one son and one daughter. Hilda passed away while their youngest was still an infant.

The foregoing history of the Salamandicks and Poraykos was gleaned from various records and the memories of the remaining members. Now I (Anne) will continue as I remember our lives.

Farming was no easy endeavor as money was rather scarce and equipment was hard to come by. Horses were the only source of power and there were quite a number on the farm so that they could be changed off for different jobs. Cattle, sheep (for a few years), chickens and ducks comprised the farmyard inhabitants.

Raymond was a very willing helper though Dad did not take too much advantage of him as he was quite young. When money allowed, Dad hired a man to help with spring work and harvesting. Usually one farmer who had a threshing machine would thresh for his neighbors as well. The total crew consisted of approximately ten men. Threshing was a very busy time for everyone. Mother usually got up about five o'clock to prepare breakfast for all those men. We got up just a little later and helped set the table and do other tasks. After our own breakfast we went out to milk cows and then washed up and dressed for school. We had to ~~stop~~ ^{step} lively as the school was two

and a half miles away and we walked, especially during the busy seasons. During threshing time we would race home because there was lunch to take out to the men. It all seemed very exciting to us.

Dad set up a blacksmith shop at home so that he would be able to do any needed repairs and so saved time and money. He was very capable mechanically. One day Dad was repairing the binder and mother decided to take us by horse and buggy to visit grandmother. On our return mother discovered him beneath the binder, pinned through his thigh and in no way able to help himself. He was eventually freed and taken indoors and to bed. Mother cleansed the wound with kerosene (in those days, the home treatment for injuries). Later he was taken to the hospital in Vegreville. He was laid up for quite some time and very lucky to have had his leg saved.

Mother was kept busy indeed. Besides the daily household duties (with no running water, gas or electricity), she sewed for us, had a fair-sized garden and flower beds, looked after the chickens and milked cows. When we were old enough, we each had our duties. Water had to be pumped and carried a fair distance, then heated and later carried out again after whatever use it served. In those days the washing machines were hand-powered for farm use since there was no electricity. However, before too long there was a motor-powered washing machine that really seemed a luxury. Later electricity was brought out to that area and with it came many of the modern conveniences. Grandma Salamandick had become ill and was brought to Vegreville. She succumbed and we lost a very lovable granny.

Grandpa lived for periods of varying lengths at our home and at Uncle Bill's too. He later moved to Edmonton and was near Aunt Anna. He died at 90 years.

I remember the first self-propelled combine and swather Dad purchased. It was quite an acquisition — \$3,200.00 which seemed like a vast fortune in those days. As the boys Raymond and Walter grew



The Nick Salamandick land-breaking outfit, back from several weeks' work, 1940.

up, they were a great help after school and on weekends. However, both mother and dad saw to it that we did our homework. Walter usually had the task of bringing in the cows for milking and training the dog to help him. One young pup, too small to keep up with him on his bike, was given a ride in the basket away to the pasture where he was set down with his instructions to “get the cows” on their way home. Sometimes the cows did the chasing — but he did turn out to be a dependable helper for this chore. He always met Walter at the roadway on his return from school.

My sisters, Alice and Nataka, were both born in the Vegreville Hospital. Their sense of humor often lightened many a busy day around the farm.

We all attended the local school — Kolomea to grade ten and then went to Vegreville to complete High School. I went into training as a nurse in the Vegreville Hospital and graduated with an award for “General Proficiency and Attitude Towards Patients.” That came as a complete surprise to me. I loved nursing and really was not striving for an award. Later I went to the Vancouver General Hospital to take a Post Graduate course in Obstetrics. On returning home, I worked briefly at the Vegreville Hospital. Later I went to Camrose for a few months and then to Radway with both places paying \$25.00/month. Later I went to Myrnam for the enticing salary of \$35.00/month, only to discover on arrival that I was the only nurse and responsible 24 hours a day. After a few months I decided there must be better conditions to work under. I started at the Royal Alexandra Hospital in 1941 at \$60.00/month plus benefits. I decided I liked it and worked there for 35 years.

Raymond had a hearing problem and though teachers were told about this, some did not have the patience to repeat a question or assignment when necessary. He decided he could not carry on that way and left after completing grade ten. Later he went to a doctor in Toronto who was an ear specialist, and had everything possible done, but had little improvement. Anyway, he decided to help carry on with the farming operation.

Walter finished his High School education in Vegreville and later went into the air force. His postings were all in Canada and the greatest part of the time he worked in the Control Tower. On discharge he attended University and graduated in Chemical Engineering. In 1950 he married Josephine Baron, a bank teller in Edmonton, whom he had met on their many trips back and forth to Vegreville, each to visit their parents. He spent many days out in the oil fields during the early years of their marriage. Later, with partners, a company was incorporated and they were

known as Oilfield Consultants Ltd., a company which is still flourishing. Walter and Josephine had three children: Gordon, Patty and Lorna. Out of the clear blue sky one day it was discovered that wee Patty at 3½ years was a victim of a malignant tumor. Everything was done that could be done but she left us before many months went by. It was a tragic blow that we eventually learned to live with but never really came to terms with.

Gordon went through high school and worked at several different jobs, and then went into trucking “Hot Shot Service” in partnership. Over the past few years they have had a great demand on their services and now have a total of fourteen trucks and all are busy.

Lorna was a real busy wee girl as she took ballet lessons for eight years. Also she later took Ukrainian dancing and taught it for a while too. She is a member of the famed Shumka Dancers. She went to University and graduated in Household Economics.

My sister, Alice, also took her education at Kolomea, in Vegreville, and then a year in Edmonton at the McDougall Commercial High School where she took a secretarial course. During this year she met Steve Achtymichuk whom she married in 1945. He was a grain buyer at Royal Park and the living quarters were attached to the office part of the elevator. Two of their daughters Bernice and Sylvia were born while they lived there. Later they built a home just across the highway from the elevator. The other children arrived while they lived in this home — Steven, Marie, Bill and Joan. There was no school nearby so they went by bus to Vegreville.

Bernice Achtymichuk went in training and graduated from the Vegreville Hospital and received an award for “General Proficiency and Attitude Towards Patients.” After a couple years of nursing, she married Terry Yakimyshyn, originally a teacher but now doing a tremendous job of building houses. They now have two lovely children, Vincent and Amanda.

Sylvia Achtymichuk trained in and graduated from the University Hospital receiving three awards, the only one out of a hundred and seventeen graduating students to attain so many. Just before graduation she married Leo Paulin. At that time he too was employed at the hospital but later turned to a different line and is now a steam engineer. At present they are living in Grande Cache.

Steven took a course in mechanics and has since concentrated on better farming methods. His course has proved of great value in saving time and money in repairs. Several winters he had spent working on oil rigs.

Marie trained in and graduated from the Univer-

sity Hospital and went into Intensive Care nursing first with the new-born and later went to the Misericordia Hospital to gain experience in adult intensive care. She married Rick Calloway on June 23, 1979. He graduated in Education but has returned to the University this term.

Bill graduated in Agriculture. During one summer he was employed in that field, gaining valuable experience. He also worked at Fiberglass quite a bit.

In early summer he had a nasty accident on a trail bike sustaining a fractured skull and other injuries but has made a good recovery.

Joan has completed a year of University towards a B.Sc. in nursing. She has always said that she wanted to become a nurse.

My sister Nataika, the youngest member of the Nick and Mary Salamandick family, also attended Kolomea and then Vegreville. Later she went to Edmonton to University and graduated in Education. She taught at a couple of schools in Edmonton. Meanwhile she had met Ron Kalvaitis (Electrical Engineer & Masters in Business Management) and they were married in 1969. They built a home on an acreage south of Sherwood Park. She has not gone back to teaching.

Recalling childhood days it seems that in spite of so many tasks without modern conveniences for many years, Mother and Dad always found time to sit down and chat with us or often read stories. Mother taught me sewing, embroidery, and also tried to teach knitting but she was left-handed and somehow I just could not grasp it.

Church was a once-a-month occasion as one priest had several parishes to serve. There were times when one of us would have to stay home to look after things.

When we all left home, a trip home for the weekend was always eagerly awaited. There always seemed to prevail a feeling of warmth, security and a closeness that none of us stopped to really define, but it was there.

I remember one weekend I had come home to attend a cousin's wedding. On the Sunday after that, we were out visiting and returned home. Someone remarked how beautiful the crops were. One could just see Ray's head and shoulders above the grain as he was walking down a trail across the field to the pasture to bring the cows home. Within the hour it clouded up and started to rain, then hail. In a matter of minutes that beautiful grain was pounded into the ground. What a heartbreaker! All that investment of money, time and labor gone! That was just one year, but it seems that farming is an eternal gamble with the elements. Sometimes drought, early frost or snow, all making it difficult to really advance finan-

cially; meanwhile prices of machinery are ever escalating.

In 1957, Mom and Dad finally decided it would not be practical to build a new home on the farm so they built in town and Ray and Dad carried on with the farming from town. With a good car it does not seem nearly so far as when using a horse and buggy or the wagon (sleigh or cutters in winter). However, there was all kinds of time to visit with one another on those journeys long ago.

Mother and Dad lived very comfortably in their new home in Vegreville. There were many happy occasions vastly enjoyed by family and friends. One of the highlights was their 50th wedding anniversary. However, just when one is sailing happily along, life hands out a jolt — this time it was Dad whose health seemed to be declining. After numerous tests, etc. he was sent to Edmonton to get checked out. He did not come back home again. Once again malignancy had reared its ugly head. It seems too that misfortunes have a way of attacking in numbers. A few years later Ray was quite suddenly discovered to be another victim of the dreaded cancer. Mother had just adjusted to life without Dad. Ray who had never married was so good to her and she depended on him. His passing was a mighty blow to all of us. Just having slightly readjusted after this, Mother too was victimized by cancer. She had surgery and her life was prolonged for a couple of years, and finally she could fight it no longer.

It is really amazing how the human system can cope with all types of tragedies and harsh knocks and come up able to face whatever else life has in store.

Sanford, Edward and Dorothy **by Dorothy Sanford**

Both Edward and I were born in Vegreville, he at the R.M.B. Hospital with Dr. Arthur and I at the St. Joseph's General with Dr. R. M. Reid attending. Although I never attended school there the Park Grove area has always held pleasant memories for me. As a pre-schooler I often attended Sunday School while staying with cousins or by getting a ride with neighbors in the buggy. This was in the '20's. During school years I sometimes went to end-of-year picnics and some special parties at the Park Grove School. There were many of my cousins from the Henry, John, George Ziegler families and many friends attending school and I was always welcomed to these events and felt right at home. The highlight of any school year was the Christmas Concert and teachers were very understanding in setting the dates so that neighboring friends could come. This event was always well attended and included the entire family.

Edward attended Park Grove School and usually walked the 3½ miles when they lived on section 21. This seemed like 13½ on rainy and cold days. Teachers were Miss Maxwell, Bowman, Denmark, Thompson (Davis), Armstrong (Nicholson). Later the family moved and they were just one mile west of the school. For a while Edward was responsible for lighting the furnace each morning and usually rode his saddle horse to school to do this.



Edward Sanford operating brush cutter. A sharp blade cut the trees off at ground level and they fell back. Tractor is a McCormick Deering WD9, 1949.



Burning brush after it has been cut with brush cutter. On Ed. Sanford farm, 1949.



A real time-and-work saver was the truck-mounted auger. This was run by a power take-off and could be used to load the truck or empty it. On Ed. Sanford farm, 1942.

A favorite pastime was baseball and after practicing at noon and recess the teams often played other school districts and competition was very keen. Boys and girls made up the teams which were chosen by a "Captain".

During this time there was a bounty on crow and magpie eggs so youngsters gathered these and took them to school where they were counted and paid for at a cent each making them worth 12 cents per dozen.

Sometimes the students skated to school by way of sloughs and the creek. I attended school at Vermillion #778, which is west of Vegreville. Many of the students rode horses or drove a buggy or cutter. There were very few bicycles. Often in winter when roads were drifted we went through the fields. After a chilly ride we crowded around the large heater which was surrounded by a tin shield. This same stove served very well to toast our sandwiches which we laid on the end of the poker. At least until one of the boys told us, "That's the poker we killed gophers with in the summer."

My first teacher was Elizabeth (Betty) Bowen. I considered her very sophisticated because she could get her hair to stay tucked behind her ears. Some of the games we enjoyed were "Fox and Goose, Last Couple Out, Red Light, Statue, Go In and Out the Window" and also skipping, hop-scotch and marbles. Of course there was ball, but I never could master the art of hitting where the ball was or having my hands in the right place to catch the ball if it ever came my way.

I learned to ski on barrel staves and enjoyed this very much after I had real skis. My first ski poles were two worn-out brooms which served the purpose very well.

Many farmers cut brush and plowed the land to get more land into cultivation. The trees suitable for firewood were trimmed and hauled home. These were piled to be cut into proper lengths by a tractor-driven saw. As the trees were different lengths the ends stuck out haphazardly and by holding on to one near the top and jumping up and down on a lower one we had a home-made thrilling experience.

Fuel for tractors, trucks and cars was purchased in 45-gallon drums and these were just dandy for "walking" on. We would have great fun going from one side of the yard to the other. At times we would use sticks to pound on them — the original drum band!

Another home-made pastime was rolling tires and we would race down the road at break-neck speed. There was not much traffic on the roads and it was always possible to see something coming for quite a distance by the clouds of dust. Roads were



Stones in the field are always a hazard and a nuisance. The ones that can be picked up are easily hauled away, but for larger ones other methods of removal are necessary. Roy Campbell on the Oliver 99 helps Edward Sanford, on the McCormick Deering WD9, pull a rock off a field, 1950.

kept smooth by a horse-drawn “drag”, a framework of metal irons and blades which could be angled.

In the late 20’s and early 30’s there were annual picnics, some of them in Kitto’s pasture, 1½ miles south of the school. There were ball games, which were played for fun, races with prize money shared from a silver collection. No booth! No ice cream!

Sometimes we teen-agers would go to the school to play ball in the evenings. Nearly everyone rode horseback but a few had bicycles. I don’t remember who decided team positions or if anyone kept score but for a while (until dark) we would enjoy an energetic game.

Sometimes we played “tag” on horseback. One time Arthur Ziegler was explaining why cowboys hold the reins in their left hand — so they can quickly draw their gun with the right hand. The accompanying “Bang, Bang” sound-effects frightened my horse and almost caused a run-away.

During the late 30’s we had a “Young Peoples Group”. I was Chairman for a while and arranged Dances and Social Evenings. The primary purpose was for enjoyment but one year we had made some money so bought gifts to put on the Christmas Tree for all district children.

Skating parties were usually held in the spring when nature had melted the snow which ran into sloughs, then refroze. For several winters Uncle George made a skating rink and it was well used. Each Sunday many of the young folks would assemble and have a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon.

Attending Vermilion School of Agriculture for two terms was a very interesting and valuable experience. All the subjects were useful and teachers and staff very helpful. I served on several committees, including the “Year Book”. There was time for extra activities because we lived at the dormitory and only went home for Christmas Holidays.

Edward and I were married in 1942 and both our



Meeting of U.F.W.A. at Sanfords, Park Grove District, 1942.

Shower and Wedding Dance, with Joe Dubuc’s Orchestra, were held in Park Grove School. We lived across the road from the Scritsmeyer Farm in a house Mr. Scritsmeyer had built for Harold and Eva Fuller. It was a basic four rooms with an enclosed entry and stair steps down to the cellar. Heating was provided by a pipeless furnace, which was quite temperamental. On one occasion it was heating so well some candles softened enough to bend over into a graceful arc.

Plumbing was non-existent and we caught rain-water off the roof for washing. The pump was halfway between the house and the outhouse so often a trip to fill the empty water pail could serve two purposes! We had a washboard and pounder, and used them for our automatic washer!

Edward often hauled sand for the lumber yard, loading and unloading by hand. Each evening we would sweep out the truck and this resulted in a fairly clean and dry yard. The truck was a 1931 International.

We rented the E½ of 12-53-15-W4 and Edward’s sister Louise helped me cook for threshers. A popular radio program at that time was the “Happy Gang” and they would suggest “to feel refreshed, just have a Palmolive Bath”. I doubt if the threshers would have approved of our having a bath instead of getting dinner. This was the fall of 1942; the following year we harvested with the combine.

U.F.W.A. meetings were held monthly at members’ homes. We didn’t have a car, but Charlie Fuller did, so I would walk to Mrs. Fullers and drive their car to the meetings.

In 1945 we bought a farm at Lavoy, from J. E. Kelsey of Alton, Ill., which included N½ 3-52-13-W4 and N½ 4-52-13-W4. Some of this was heavily treed and we bought a brushcutter from Mr. Timanson and cut the brush, then broke the land with a bush-breaker plow and the International WD 9, which we equipped with steel wheels. Later we got an International TD 9, and this worked very well.

We have been told, by two people, that this land originally belonged to Joseph Lavoy and the original house had been a machine shed in town which he moved to the farm.

Early records (before 1915) list names and amounts of taxes but not the location of property taxed, so ownership before that time has to be recorded from memory by those who heard the details from the original people who were here. At one time, real estate agents would sponsor a special train to bring prospective land-buyers into the area. It is possible that Mr. Kelsey was one of these. The first record we have indicating the land location is that it was assessed at \$7680, with mill rate at 12 so taxes amounted to \$92.16. This was 1915 and during the time he owned the land he rented it to various farmers.

Although the original house couldn't have been very old, we found it would require quite a bit of fixing up. It would need to be re-shingled, walls repaired, inside and out, new flooring, new doors and first and foremost, fumigating. The one redeeming feature was a beautiful stone foundation, but on close inspection we found this to be cracked. We decided to dismantle the whole thing and start building from "scratch". We built a garage in 1946 to live in while we built the house. As we took the building down; shingles, roof boards, rafters, ceiling joists, walls, floors, we found we couldn't separate the chimney bricks. The mortar was firm and solid, so, as we took everything else away, the chimney stood straight and tall. It began at the basement floor, through the first floor, (with high ceilings) through the second floor, through the attic and above the roof, so it was very "tall".



Ed Sanford sharpening tiller discs, 1945.



Dorothy Christine Lowe (5 mo.) at the Vegreville Fair in 1921. They had a baby contest with Dr. Arthur of Lavoy in charge and Dorothy got the first prize. Dorothy is Jack and Betty Lowe's daughter.



Edward and Dorothy Sanford on their 25th Wedding Anniversary with sons, Arnold, John and Gordon 1967.



Edward and Dorothy Sanford combining on their farm beside Lavoy, 1944.



(L. to r.) — Dorothy Lowe, Jennette Ziegler, Barbara Ziegler. 1922.



Winners of Firemen's Bonspiel, 1960's. (L. to r.) — Ron Hnydyk, John Koshuta, Mrs. George Dowhaniuk, Edward Sanford, Art Baxandall.



Dorothy Lowe visiting at Trimbles with Hazel and Mae, 1930's.

We never got around to figuring out how we would handle the removal of the chimney and with the pressure of spring work on the farm we had enough to keep us busy. One day while working the back half, over a mile from the buildings, we stopped for lunch and noted the wind had increased alarmingly. We heard a noise that sounded like thunder but no lightning or rain, so we went back to work. Coming into the yard in the evening, we noticed the cause of the noise — the chimney had blown over! Even that disaster didn't completely break it up, there was still one length, sound and firm. This we dragged over to the garage and hoisted it into place at one end on a cement slab where it still stands "straight and tall", a tribute to a talented mason.

Our three boys were all born and raised at Lavoy. They all attended school at Lavoy and High School at Vegreville and are interested in anything with wheels — cars, motorcycles, trucks — and a lot of things that haven't, such as — boats, aeroplanes, water skis, C.B.'s, and snowmobiles. All the boys were in the

Vegreville 4H Beef Club and have their 5-Year Pins. Gordon is Assistant Leader of the Vegreville 4 H Tractor Club.

John Stanley was born July 29, 1950, and is employed at Dresser-Titan in Edmonton. He married Jacqueline Marie Fletcher October 21, 1978. Jackie nurses at the Royal Alex Hospital. They live in Edmonton.

Edward Arnold was born November 7, 1952, and works at Fuhrs in Spruce Grove. He married Linda Patricia Stuart August 13, 1977. Linda teaches at Stony Plain where they live in a comfortable apartment.

Gordon Dwight, born January 5, 1957, is working at home and drives a truck and the school bus occasionally.

Sanford, Stanley and Flossie

by Louise Miller

On the 27 of March, 1905, my grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. John Sanford with a family of eight, five girls and three boys, arrived in Strathcona, now known as South Edmonton, from England. After a seventeen-day journey crossing the Atlantic Ocean, three days of which they were battened down below deck, due to rough weather, they finally landed at Halifax. From there, a somewhat tedious train journey to Strathcona.

My Grandfather's purpose on leaving England was to take up homesteads for himself and his sons, Uncle Bert and my Dad. They finally settled on land in what was then known as the Hillsdale district, twelve miles east and one mile south of Strathcona, consisting of three quarter-sections and a fraction of fifty acres, part of which was facing a lake which at that time was known as Big Island Lake. This land had been a timber reserve and was then available for homesteading. (Sec. 16-52-22 W4)

The boys, Uncle Bert and my Dad, were only young, Dad was fourteen and Uncle Bert was sixteen, and this looked like a tough proposition to them and it turned out to be just that. First they had to clear a place to build which faced on the lake. The house was of log construction; the logs were there and they cut and hauled them to the building site. This done, the logs had to be peeled of their bark, which was quite an experience for them.

With the help of a friend of the family, Charles Mitchell, who had the experience, a start was made and progress was good. For rafters and floor and ceiling joist, they used good straight spruce which were handy. With a load of rough poplar boards for roof and floors, cedar shingles for the roof, they finally finished the job. Next they built a log lean-to which was used for a kitchen. During this time the



Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Sanford, May 11, 1964. 50th wedding anniversary. (l. to r.) — children — Arnold, Louise, Kathleen, Edward. Front — Flossie and Stanley Sanford.

rest of the family stayed in Strathcona and in the fall moved out to the Homestead.

Winter approaching, firewood had to be cut, hauled, sawed into stove lengths by cross-cut saw and split. This kept them busy during the winter months. The following spring Grandpa and Uncle Bert had to carry on at their trade, that of painting and decorating. Their first job was at Rabbit Hill. In payment for their work they received two cows and a heifer. This was the foundation stock and in a few years they had a small herd which included a team of oxen, which they broke and used to haul their feed, logs and firewood. Later on they were kept busy cutting logs in preparation for getting in a sawmill. The oxen were used for hauling all the logs for this operation. In time they got horses for their farming.

For entertainment there were skating parties on the lake and Grandpa organized a choir consisting of his children and all the neighbour children. My Grandmother played the piano which they brought from England with them. Dad told us how he had taken his guns apart and hid them in the piano to bring them over to Canada. With this piano they had concerts at different schools around the country. It was lots of fun and they all enjoyed it. One night they drove over to Cooking Lake to a dance. This was in the winter and they had a team and sleigh; all the boys had girl friends except Dad so he had to drive. It was fine going as everyone was singing and talking but coming home everyone was cuddled under the blankets or sleeping and Dad was getting cold and lonesome so when he got to a steep place in the road he drove off and tipped the sleigh and everyone out. This livened the load somewhat and they didn't trust his driving the rest of the way home.



Vegreville flood, 1943. (looking east to St. Martin's School).

Later on Grandpa became secretary of the Municipality of Strathcona, a position he held until he retired. With the lumber from the sawmill they built a lovely big home overlooking the lake. The children all married friends in the district. Aunt Gladys married Alf Walton, Uncle Bert married Henrietta Ball, Dad married Florence Cleland, Aunt Maud married Herman Miller, Aunt Olive married Tim Sheppard, Aunt Kate married Roy Campbell and Uncle Ralph married Connie Thomlinson. Aunt Phyll was the youngest and didn't marry until they moved into Edmonton where she met and married Guy Turner.

In 1915 Uncle Bert and Dad decided to go to Vegreville. They rented a quarter-section east of Warwick for a year or two and then purchased a half-section of raw land in the Park Grove district, the south half of 21.

In 1917 they broke one quarter using two four-horse outfits with sulky plows and breaking moldboards. This breaking they sowed to wheat the following spring. But misfortune struck! On July 24th, 1918, a killing frost came and they lost the whole crop, which had the appearance of forty bushels to the acre.

The following year they sold the land to W. G. Scritsmeyer and continued on as renters. They farmed with horses and Uncle Herman came down to the Vegreville district with his steam engine and threshing machine and threshed their grain as well as that of many of the farmers in the Brush Hill District.

In 1920 Dad and Mother went back to the homestead and cut trees and had the sawmill in and got lumber and hauled it down and they built a two-storey home and both families lived there until the summer of 1921 when they purchased a cottage, cut it in half and enlarged it. Dad and Mother moved into it in the fall. By now they had Arnold and Edward and I was born on Christmas Day that year.

The children walked to the Park Grove School which was two and a half miles away. It was a one-room building with three windows on each side.

There were three rows of single and one row of double desks which accommodated the pupils from grades one to eight. It was heated by a pot-bellied stove with a metal shield. In the cold weather Dan Triska built the fire every morning. The children carried their lunch in lard or syrup pails. They never had to worry about their apples or oranges freezing because they never had any to freeze.

In 1921 Dad bought his first tractor and threshing machine which were made by Twin City. This lightened the load on the horses but it was a bumpy machine to run compared to the rubber-tired ones of today. In 1926 they moved on to farms closer to the school, Uncle Bert on 15.53.15.W4 and Dad on the NW quarter of 10.53.15.W4. Oliver Campbell moved on the old farm at 21. By this time there were eleven Sanford children at Park Grove, eight of Uncle Bert's and three of us. One year at Christmas Uncle Bert taught us a drill and action song which we performed at the Christmas Concert.

In 1929 Uncle Bert moved back to the homestead at Hillsdale, which is in the Sherwood Park area now, and continued farming there until his retirement. The youngest in our family was Kathleen, born in 1930. We moved across the road to the farm where Uncle Bert had lived and stayed there until 1945 when Dad bought the Andrew Reimer farm in the Highlow district and continued to farm until 1961 when he and Mother retired and moved to Vegreville and bought



Vegreville flood, 1943, (looking towards Miss Black's house).



Vegreville flood, 1943, (looking N.E. towards St. Martin's School).

the Shaw house where Arnold lives today. Edward and Dorothy live in Lavoy where they farm. Louise (Mrs. John Miller) lives in Vegreville. Kathleen (Mrs. John Boulter) lives in Sherwood Park. Mother passed away in May, 1965 and Dad in August, 1978.

Dad worked with the Farmers' Organizations all his life. Mother enjoyed going to meetings with Dad and belonged to the East Vegreville Farm Women's Club. Dad had a gift for finding water wells with a red willow branch that he shared with all his friends. The last well he found was on his grandson Rob Borud's farm at Plain Lake in 1976.

Sawiak, Mike and Stefania

by John Sawiak

Mike Sawiak was born June 29, 1903. After attending school as a young boy, he was drafted into the Polish army in 1923. After serving in the army, on April 10, 1927, Mike Sawiak left Kamionka Strom, Poland, and emigrated to Canada. Arriving in Canada he worked in 1928 on the The Pas Railway in Manitoba for eighteen months. In 1929 he worked on construction in Slain Falls, Manitoba. On November 29 Mike left Manitoba and came to Alberta and worked on many farms where labour was required.

Stefania Panek was born November 14, 1910. After attending school in Poland, as a young girl, in March of 1930 Stefania left Tarnobrzeg, Poland, and emigrated to Canada, arriving April 1. She worked on farms in the Mundare area. One of the farms where she worked was owned by Stanley Charniawsky of Mundare.

In 1933 Mike Sawiak, while working at Royal Park on the threshing crew of William Smook, met Stefania who was working at Nick Merluk's farm. At this time their courtship began. In the fall on November 26, 1933, Mike Sawiak and Stefania Panek were married in St. Martins Roman Catholic Church in Vegreville. After marriage they began their lives together on the farm of Metro Fundytus, where they rented a house in the Royal Park area.

In 1936 they purchased their first quarter of land in the Imperial School District south of Vegreville. In 1942 the Sawiaks purchased their second quarter of land four miles away from the first in the Victory School district and they moved to the new location. In April, 1945, they sold both of the separate quarters of land and purchased two quarters of land in one parcel in the Highlow School District located six miles east of Vegreville. This land is E½ 13, 52, 14. On May 1 of the same year they moved to the new location. The Sawiaks continued to farm at this location, living in a small two-roomed house till 1948 when they built a larger three-bedroom home. They began to buy more machinery and in July they pur-

chased their first rubber-tired tractor; it was a big improvement over steel wheels. In the fall they purchased a threshing machine on tires and started to harvest crops for their neighbours also, after finishing their own threshing. They took the equipment around in the Highlow area and after completing the home area, it also moved into the Royal Park district to help farmers with harvesting.

In 1954 the Sawiaks purchased another quarter of land from the Hoggins family. In that same year they purchased their first new Massey-Harris combine. Now they could also help neighbours with combining and they did. In 1960 they purchased a section of land from a neighbour and friend, John Hoyteniuk.

December 2, 1966, Mike and Stefania Sawiak moved to Vegreville to their new home where they are presently residing in semi-retirement.

In 1967 Mike Sawiak made a trip to his native Poland to visit his mother, brothers, sisters and other relatives. The Sawiak's have three children. Their eldest son, John Andrew, was born Oct. 23, 1934, in the Vegreville General Hospital. In 1940 he started school at Imperial School, 1942-45 — attended school in Victory School District; 1945-52 John attended school in Highlow School district. Later in 1952 the small school districts were closed and the school buses conveyed children to Vegreville Schools. While John was attending high school in Vegreville he also took an active part in helping out with farm work. In the fall John also helped with the



Mike Sawiak (left) in Polish Army, 1923.

threshing of farmers' crops. He was the youngest (straw boss) man to run a threshing crew in the area. He also helped with the combining and did custom work for farmers in the Highlow and New Kiew areas.

October 11, 1958, John married Albina Lozinsky from Alvena, Saskatchewan. After their marriage John and Albina moved to the Hoggins farm where they began their own farming operation. In 1963 they sold the Hoggins farm to Mrs. Brymer and bought the Frederking farm.

In 1964 in early spring, John and Albina began to build a new home for themselves on the present family farm, moving into it that same year in the fall.

Taking an active part in the Farmers Union of Alberta, John was elected as a Regional Director for Region #6 in 1969. In 1970 the name was changed from the Farmers Union to Unifarm. John was served as vice-president for Unifarm for one and a half years and at the present time is still a regional director.

In 1975 he was appointed to the Agricultural Development Corporation for the County of Minburn by the Minister of Agriculture. He is currently the chairman of the group. Being very active in the community, he has served also on all positions in the Highlow Local of Unifarm.

In 1975 when the natural gas program was introduced to the farmers of Alberta, John started to take an active part in promoting natural gas for farmers. Currently, most farmers have natural gas in the County of Minburn; the gas co-op's name is Minco. John is the President of the gas co-op.

In 1975 John was elected to the Lavoy R.E.A. board and is currently serving as director. Also in 1975 he was appointed to the Local Agricultural Manpower Board in Vegreville as director and in 1978 was elected chairman by the board of directors. In 1978 he became a board member on the Church Council of St. Martin's R.C. Church and is also a member of the Knights of Columbus, and holds an executive position. John is also a member of the Chamber of Commerce in Vegreville.

John and Albina have four sons; their eldest is Julian Charles, born Jan. 26, 1960. Julian attended school at St. Mary's and St. Martin's schools, and graduated from the Composite High School of Vegreville in 1977. He took an active part in the 4-H Beef Club from 1973-78. In September, 1978, Julian enrolled in the University of Lethbridge and is continuing his education there for the second year. He is enrolled in the Faculty of Arts.

Second son — Michael Daryl, was born April 1, 1963. He attended school in St. Mary's and St. Martin's. At present time he is completing his High School in the Composite High School of Vegreville.

Michael is a member of the 4-H Beef Club since 1974.

Third son — Vincent John, was born July 2, 1967. He attended his elementary grades in St. Mary's School and is attending Junior High at St. Martin's School at the present time. He is also a member of 4-H Beef Club since 1977.

Fourth son — Allan John was born January 9, 1970. Alan is presently attending school in St. Mary's school at Vegreville.

The second child of Mr. and Mrs. Mike Sawiak is Victoria Regina, born Sept. 28, 1936. Victoria started school at Victory, then attended Highlow School when the family moved. On July 14, 1954 Victoria married John Kryszak of Lavoy, and the young couple made their home on the Kryszak farm twelve miles north of Lavoy. After farming for nineteen years in the Plain Lake area, they sold their farm and moved to Ft. McMurray. John is working for Suncor, the oil sands plant, as welder while Vicki is currently working at Sands Paint Store. The couple have five children.

Lorraine Amelia born April 29, 1956 attended Lavoy Elementary School, then graduated from the Vegreville Composite High School. She moved to Ft. McMurray with her parents and worked for the Ft. McMurray "Today" newspaper. For the last five years she has worked with Canadian Bechtel, the construction company of Syncrude and is living in Edmonton.

Their second child, John Jerry was born July 25, 1958. He attended Lavoy Elementary and Vegreville



Mike Sawiak Family, 1979. Back row, (l. to r.) — Eli Ulan, Michael Sawiak, Julian Sawiak, Albina Sawiak, John Sawiak, Lorraine Kryszak, John Kryszak, John Jr. Kryszak. Middle row (l. to r.) — Verlayne Kryszak, Eileen (Sawiak) Ulan, Stefania Sawiak, Mike Sawiak, Victoria (Sawiak) Kryszak, Joanne Kryszak. Front row (l. to r.) — Darren Ulan, Douglas Ulan, Allan Sawiak, Leslie Kryszak, Vincent Sawiak.

Composite High School. He graduated from the Ft. McMurray Composite High School and is presently employed at Suncor in Ft. McMurray as Heavy Duty Mechanic.

Their three younger children, Leslie Stephen Ward, born March 28, 1964, Verlayne Roxanne Nicole born Aug. 30, 1969, and Joanne Laverne Vanessa born July 6, 1971 are presently attending school. Leslie is at the Composite High School in Ft. McMurray, and the girls at St. Paul's Catholic School.

The third and youngest child was born at St. Joseph's General Hospital, Vegreville on May 4, 1945, and named Eileen Kazia Sawiak. She grew up on the farm in the Highlow District and attended school at Vegreville from Grades one to twelve. After completing high school, Eileen attended McTavish Business College in Edmonton where she obtained a Secretarial Diploma with honours. From 1964-66, Eileen worked as a stenographer at Canadian Utilities Limited, Vegreville.

On April 23, 1966, Eileen was married to Eli Ulan of Mundare, where they farmed for ten years. During that time, Eli and Eileen were blessed with two sons, Darren Lane and Douglas Eli. They were busy with community work while farming and raising their children. Eileen helped with the Mundare Recreation Centre, served as treasurer and assisted on committees; belonged to the Order of the Royal Purple and was a member of the Ladies Curling Club. Eli belonged to the B.P.O. Elks, Mundare and District Agricultural Society, Mundare Recreation Centre and was a member of the Men's Curling Club.

In April, 1976, Eli and Eileen decided to sell the farm and move to Sherwood Park where they are presently living. Eileen is a housewife while Eli is employed as a lab technician at J. R. Paine Soil Consultants in Sherwood Park. The boys, who are twelve and thirteen years of age, attend Haythorne School in Sherwood Park.

Sayko, Andrew and Frances

by Vi Kully

While all the children of Elkow and Ksenia Sayko had married and gone to make a living for themselves, Andrew, the youngest son (born in 1908), married Frances (nee Hawryluk, born in 1913), and stayed on at the Sayko homeplace.

As was the custom in those days, before a wedding, the groom and bride-to-be had to go out by horse and wagon to personally invite each neighbor. Frances, daughter of Fred and Paraskevia Hawryluk, first set out to invite to her wedding her neighbors who lived near her parents' farm in the south-west part of Vegreville.

The day of the wedding before, they left for Sts. Peter and Paul Church in Mundare (which her father Fred Hawryluk helped to build) to celebrate the Holy Liturgy and take their marriage vows; they knelt before their parents kissing the Kolochi (bread) that were held on their laps. This signified God's blessing through the parents for a love perfected from God and a successful marriage perpetuated from one generation to another. After they returned from Church, at the doorway before they entered their parents' home, they kissed the hands of their parents who held lit candles and Holy Water which they sprinkled upon them. Once again the parents conveyed their blessings that Christ would be the Light of their life and One they should follow always.

The family and neighbors then partook of wine bought and food prepared by the parents which consisted of borscht (beet soup), holupchi (cabbage rolls), home-made sausage, perishke (tiny bread buns with cheese and potato) served with cream, studinetz (jellied pigs' feet) and pies made of dried apples. Everyone then gathered in the cleaned and swept-out granary or barn for dancing, music usually provided by some talented neighbors or family member, on a violin, cimbal (dulcimer) and drum (bubin). Gifts such as pillow cases, items of china and small essentials were presented to the bride and groom.

Andrew and Frances lived in the two-storey house with his parents and worked hard to make a living. She thought nothing of milking twelve cows, feeding chickens and hogs and working in the fields. Often in those days men walked down the countryside especially at harvest time asking for work such as stooking grain bundles for a \$1.00 a day and room and board.

In April, 1933, their first child Violet was born. A doctor from Vegreville was called who came by sled and horses, but complications arose so Andrew then harnessed his horses to a sleigh and drove his wife to the hospital which took three hours over snow that was six feet deep. Dr. Yak fought hard to save the young woman's life and deliver her 9-pound baby daughter.

In February, 1936, Sally, their second child, was born. In the fall of that year when she was 8 months old and sleeping upstairs, where her sister Violet was as well, and their parents working in the field, a fire broke out. Fortunately their good neighbors John, Bill and Anne Fedyna who were passing by on their way home from Vegreville, spotted the fire and leapt into the house concerned for the small baby and her sister. Mrs. Anne Fedyna carried them to safety while Bill Fedyna helped Ksenia carry out some of her belongings. John Fedyna ran out into the field to

alert Andrew and Frances about the burning house. Their hearts were pained to watch all their belongings, wedding gifts, gown, rings, treadle sewing machine and precious mementos burn up in the fire. Heartbroken and in shock, Frances sank down to the ground in a faint. Her 3-year-old daughter ran to her side trying to console her anguished mother, gently pouring some water out of a cup down her lips while holding her head up.

On their first trip to Vegreville, Frances was fitted with shoes by a salesman who came to their car. She then entered the store to buy clothing for the baby, Violet, Andrew, and herself. She also bought material and wool for a quilt which some ladies of Brush Hill district offered to sew for her. Of course, Elkow, Ksenia, Andrew, Frances and their children had moved into the old three-room log house which Elkow had built a year earlier. There they shared a big kitchen and each family had a bedroom on either end. Two years later Andrew took very sick with Scarlet Fever and had to be nursed by Frances for three weeks. They were still remembering how very sick their first child, Violet, was with an Eczema skin-type when she was 18 months old and for which there seemed to be no cure. It left her swollen, very weak and for several months she could not walk. Now she and her little sister, Sally, were struck with Scarlet Fever along with their father. He, one day in the third week of the disease, caught a chill and had to be hospitalized for he also came down with Quinzy and was very ill.

Not all was hardship and bad times. They visited neighbors who visited in return and relatives would come over for a Sunday visit and a nice dinner.

One day, when Frances came home from a shopping trip in Vegreville, she set a large parcel from Eaton's on the kitchen table. She unwrapped clothing to try on the children and then re-wrapped and packed those to be sent back. About two weeks later, a small, carefully and daintily wrapped parcel came from Eaton's with a nice letter stating that the pair of dentures found in the returned parcel might belong to the Sayko's. At last Ksenia's dentures were found, which had mysteriously disappeared the day they came back from their shopping trip in town and which she had laid on the table. She wore them for cosmetic reasons only as they did not fit well.

The Senior and Junior Sayko's were very busy most of the time. Sometimes when Elkow recited his morning prayers while standing at the breakfast table and glimpsed through the window and saw cows that had broken through a fence into the yard, and in the middle of "Our Father" (Otche Nash) he gave them a holler or scolding, and continued praying where he left off.



Threshing on Sayko's farm, 1920's.

However, in the spring of 1939 Andrew and Frances had to move onto the farm across the road. By this time their first born son Raymond had arrived in June, 1938. Andrew had acquired from his brother, Peter, the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ 13-53-14 and the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ 13-53-14 at a reasonable price. The parents signed over the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ 13-53-14 which contained 100 acres of pasture and tree land. Before moving on the homestead quarter, Frances had planted a great number of maple and ash trees and caragana for a shelter belt along the outside edge of the yard running north and south and partway east of it. They grew to a beautiful height but were torn down in the 1970's by new owners.

Andrew and Frances, with their young children, moved into the five-room house which had earlier been converted from a sturdy, well-built granary. It was at about this time that Andrew was hospitalized with osteomyelitis of his right leg, a bone infection. He had to keep it dressed constantly as blood and pus drained out from the discolored area midway below his knee. He had been afflicted with this from the time he was fourteen or fifteen years old. It had subsided but worsened after his bout with Scarlet Fever and Quinzy. He was hospitalized in 1939 where one doctor felt his leg should be amputated at the knee, but Dr. Shandro disagreed and so it was left. It flared up again, so he was taken to a hospital in Edmonton, but his condition did not improve. He lost much weight — to the point in fact that when he was brought home his two little daughters would take him for a ride in a small pull-type wagon because he was too weak to walk. In time he gained weight and felt stronger. In the meantime Frances' sister Sophie and her husband, Peter Pruss, came to her aid, building a straw barn to house the cows, and a pen and shelter for hogs. The existing tiny log building was used for keeping laying hens. Eventually a granary was built and a small building for young chicks that would later be used for meat and for laying eggs. The

first crate of 15 dozen eggs was sold for 85¢. Very often in exchange for sewing Sunday dresses for the girls, Frances would bring homemade cottage cheese, milk, eggs, or cream.

Sundays were the children's favorite days as Frances would cook delicious creamed chicken and dumplings for dinner. She was a fantastic cook often producing a mouth-watering meal in one and half hours to guests and family who arrived unannounced.

Because fruit was expensive and times were hard, especially after three years of drought and three years of being hauled out in succession, the family picked saskatoons and canned them in jars to be used later on as fruit for dessert or in pies. Also wild strawberries and raspberries. Mushrooms were picked and dried. Pincherries and chokeberries were picked for jam and jelly. Lunches were carried in emptied lard pails. When an occasional apple or chocolate bar was brought by thoughtful Aunt Cassie, they were overjoyed.

Often while traipsing through the pasture on their way home from school, Raymond and Violet would play an imaginary game called "Fencing" without shields, using 2 well-shaped 3 ft. long sticks found lying on the ground. Because of the leisurely walk home from school where Sally and Violet had swept and dusted the rooms for \$1.00 each per month, they often practiced singing a duet of a popular song. They eventually entered a Music Festival in Vegreville because their teacher Mr. Barber thought they showed some talent in that field if not a great love for singing.

Andrew listened to the Wilf Carter program every morning during the winter at 7:00 AM before going to milk cows, so Violet hearing it so often would practice yodelling all the way home from school, for two and half miles, to Sally's disconcertion.

The family's favorite radio program was "Lux Theatre" Mondays at 7:00 P.M. and The Shadow at 9:00 P.M. Fridays. Andrew and Frances, when they could, listened to the afternoon soap operas such as The Guiding Light, Ma Perkins and Pepper Young's Family. Listening to the radio was rationed so the batteries would last six months.

The children were allowed two or three hours on Saturday afternoons after having done their work so they often played in their make-believe house in a nice grove of trees where they had a kitchen with a stove (an old discarded heater). The walls were made of strings of twine tied from tree to tree. How much fun they had walking over to Lil and Elsie Bushko's to play imaginary store and then have Mrs. Mike Bushko treat them to tea in fine style.

Every summer the children attended Catechism, reading, writing, singing mass and songs all taught in Ukrainian. Each day neighbors would take turns to drive the children of their own neighborhood to New Kiew Hall where classes were held and then on the return trip bring the two Catechist Sisters to the house for the night. Often the children were boarded out at a relative's during the week. Whatever the case, the parishioners felt it was very important to provide their children with these lessons.

Each child had responsibilities, outdoors and indoors. Ray had a particular fondness for calves, so he often helped with the milking. Starting at the age of nine years, he would pail-feed the calves with milk and wipe their mouths with a dry cloth to prevent the cold winter air in the straw barn from freezing the droplets of milk.

Coal and chopped wood were brought in daily after school and lamps filled with coal oil or high test gas. The crackling sounds from the wood and coal stove and water kettle softly boiling on the side of it, brought a comfort and warmth in the home which now we so much miss.

When the parents went to town on Saturday for their weekly shopping, the children would clean house, do the chores and wait anxiously for their parents to come home with a chocolate bar each and the Family Herald magazine for its comics. Raymond, at the age of 8 years, showed his love for hunting — most times sneaking the gun out to shoot at sharptail grouse. One day he and Sally came back home from the pasture after fetching the cows for milking, blood spilling from his hand. When questioned by their frantic mother as to what had happened, they told her some far-fetched tale. The truth came out later though, and he was taken to Vegreville Hospital, where his shattered thumb was treated.

To the entire family's delight and happiness a new member was born, Patricia Angeline, on March 16, 1944, who very soon showed her love of horses. One summer day the family frantically looked and called for eighteen-month-old Patricia, only to find her napping under Beauty, their 20-year-old Shetland pony that patiently stood waiting for her to wake up. Later on she was adept at handling horses and was her father's right-hand helper. She shared with him a great love for horses, so he would often tell her of the time he broke and trained them as a young man. In 1931 he had a team, pulling a wagonload of wheat, follow him while he drove another team and wagon of wheat in front, all the way down a street or to Fitzallen siding where he got 31¢ a bushel for loading 1100 bushels of wheat by scoop shovel into a railroad box car.

However, in the fall of 1944 Andrew was thrilled

to come home with a Minneapolis Moline Model Z Tractor, and in the spring a 4½ ft. wide tiller. Now he could go up and down the fields in fine style. But he would use the horses for hauling hay and straw and for other work during the winter months. Often the tips of his ears and nose froze while driving the children all cuddled up under blankets and a jug of hot water in the sleigh, on their way to school or back, whenever it was very cold.

Grain was cut by binder, stooked, and then threshed with a threshing machine. Ten or twelve farmers would travel along with the threshing machine owner, working out a systematic way of harvesting oats, wheat and barley throughout the neighborhood. Andrew unloaded his grain out of the wagon by scoop shovel into the granary. As each box filled up it was hard to keep up hauling, and if the crop was a bumper one, it became even more difficult.

Everyone could feel the excitement in the air as all the teams of horses and hayracks arrived with the threshing outfit. At last the fruits from the year's labour! Straw for cattle and hogs, grain for feeding livestock and poultry, seed for next year and the rest of the grain to be sold. Pies baking, making doughnuts for hot lunches to be taken out in the field to the hard-working crew, and getting up at 5:30 A.M. to make breakfast for 10 to 12 men, and then dinner at 12 o'clock. What a great feeling, that too is missed now.

In 1950 the family was faced with a crisis. Andrew's right leg became inflamed and very painful, and especially after being kicked by a horse. Upon seeking help, he was sent to a bone specialist, a Dr. Kato of Edmonton. There he was told that he should be treated with penicillin. If that did not succeed, the leg, up to the knee, might have to be amputated. But penicillin was so dear and the family did not have the money to pay for it nor for a month of hospitalization. All x-rays, laboratory work, medicine, plus something for the ward each day, had to be paid for by the patient. Aunt Cassie approached Andrew's and Frances' families for financial help. So Andrew was admitted on October 19, 1950, to St. Joseph's Hospital in Vegreville under Dr. J. F. Reid's care.

What was the family to do? Three children to send to school, Sally in Grade Ten, Raymond in Grade Six, and Patricia starting Grade One — a hog pen to be built before winter set in and all the household and outdoor chores. The children crowded around their father crying. Calming them in a voice full of comfort and love he uttered the words they remember to this day. "Please don't cry. Don't worry about me. I have faith that God will cure me." So with these words he went to the hospital where he stayed for one whole long month. He was one of the



St. Nicholas Church — New Kiew, built in 1905. Photo taken in 1952, a few weeks before the building was demolished.

first patients in Vegreville to use penicillin. His hips felt like pin cushions from all the needle shots, so the nurses then resorted to using his arms.

Earlier their eldest daughter, Violet, decided that she must stay home to help her mother Frances. She had just completed Grade Eleven that summer. They rose early, milked cows, harnessed the horses to drive the children to school when the weather was very cold, fed and bedded livestock and poultry, and worked each day at building a pen for the hogs. Frances would chop and trim suitable trees in a woods nearby, and Violet dragged them to the area. They then hammered and nailed them into place, until it was completed.

But a neighbor, Mr. Wm. Ewaschuk, and his son Peter were also having problems. Mrs. Ewaschuk, who lived one mile away, was hospitalized for one week and treated for blood poisoning of her finger. Could Frances and Violet milk their cows? This they did, milking five or six cows by hand after having milked their own.

One morning a kind neighbor, Mr. Bill Steblyk, drove into the Sayko yard, offering to help Raymond and Mr. Ewaschuk with the hauling and stocking. Frances was thankful to them and to her nephew, Mike Cedor, who came to her doorstep offering his help until Andrew came home from the hospital. How excited and joyous everyone was when that day finally arrived, November 19, 1950. Andrew's faith was fulfilled. He was cured. Even the nurses rejoiced and were filled with wonder.

It was decided that Violet would seek work to help pay for part of the hospital bill. She was hired in April, 1951, by St. Joseph's Hospital to work as office clerk and receptionist, where she remained employed until her marriage to Paul Kully. They settled down to farming with his parents Nick and Paraskevia Kully, who lived three and half miles southwest of Mundare on the NE-11-53-17-W4. Paul

supplemented his farm income by working on road construction hauling gravel, then later working as foreman for Pool Engineering. Paul and Violet have three children. Paulette, born in 1956, married Dimitre Petrov in July, 1978. After completing high school in Mundare, she attended Grant MacEwen College in Law Correction. She worked as dental assistant and is currently employed at Belmont Centre.

Deborah, born in December, 1957, after completing high school, entered Speech Therapy and Audiology at the University of Alberta and at present is completing her 4th year in the same faculty.

Johnny, born in 1962, is in Grade XI.

Sally too left home for work in the fall of 1951. She worked as a receptionist at St. Joseph's Hospital and then at Woodwards in downtown Edmonton. She married Stanley Hansen in 1954 and raised two sons, Dwight, born in 1955, who is taking up construction carpentry and wood-working. Ray, born in 1957, is in his 5th year in the Faculty of Law. Sally, like her aunt Eva, is very adept at sewing and needlework. Stanley worked in downtown Woodwards for 30 years and is now in Realty.

Ray attended high school in Vegreville and at the same time helped his parents with farming, even when he entered the salesmanship and building construction field. He met and married Annette Veirriere in 1961. In 1967 he applied for the position of Game Warden in the Canadian Wildlife Service Branch. Lac La Biche was his first post of duty. He remained with the department until January, 1979, when he resigned, entered the field of realty. Ray and Annette have two daughters: Shauna, born in 1962, and Sharon born in 1964. They are all residing in Calgary.

Patricia attended High School and married Jerry Triska. They have two daughters, Teresa born in 1962, and Shelley in 1964. Patricia worked as follows: C.N.I.B., financing, several years as a legal secretary and is now in realty. They are residing in Vancouver.

Andrew and Frances sold their farm in 1968 and moved into the town of Vegreville where they built a home. She was employed for 8 years in the Minburn-Auxiliary and Nursing Home in Vegreville, and Andrew worked as a desk clerk and night watchman at the Alberta Hotel. For two years they were house-parents for the Mentally Retarded Children's Home in Vegreville, and are now both semi-retired.

Sayko, Elkow and Ksenia

by Vi Kully (as told by Pearl Yasheyko and Rose Greschuk)

It was April the year of 1900 when Elkow and

Ksenia (nee Pich) Sayko, along with their children, Mary 12 years, Jessie, John and Pearl, the youngest, arrived in Canada after sailing for four weeks on the ocean. They left their village of Starave (Cmapabu), and county district Moskiwska, Western Ukraine. Their aunt, Mrs. Metro (Jennie) Mishio, had left the old country for Canada where there was much land to be had for next to nothing. After journeying to Edmonton, Elkow hired a man with a wagon and horses to get them and their belongings to the farm of their aunt, Mrs. M. Mishio, who lived at Beaver Creek, directly north of Beaver Lake and several miles west of what is now the town of Mundare.

Elkow was by trade a skilled woodworking carpenter, so when he left for Canada he brought along with him his carpenter's tools. Mrs. Mishio warmly welcomed them when they arrived but because her tiny one-room cabin could not accommodate the new family of six, plus her own, Elkow offered to build on one room so he could provide shelter for his family.

Soon after, Elkow looked for work to earn money in order to buy a wagon and oxen. Ksenia, his wife, worked at all kinds of tasks amongst the settler neighbors to earn a few pennies for food and necessities for her children.

One day in the summer months Elkow met up



Elkow and Ksenia Sayko in front of home built in 1925.

with a Mr. Rudyk, and both decided to look for homesteads. Ksenia prepared provisions consisting of bread. Elkow took a gun along and they set off for Warwick only to find that no homesteads were available. Some kindly settlers accommodated them for the night and fed them. They discovered that the people in that settlement consisted of German descent in the southern area and Romanians and Swedes to the north. The settlers there were fortunate to have mail service.

On went Elkow and Mr. Rudyk looking for heavily-wooded land as land with many trees in the old country was hard to come by. He came upon an unclaimed piece of land which he liked so he decided to claim it. It was situated on N.E. Section 12, Twp. 53, Rge. 14, and W of 4th meridian. They immediately set off for Edmonton to make an agreement to buy their chosen homesteads and procure the documents for same. On their trip to Edmonton they came upon a number of partly wild range cattle. The two friends were attacked by the long-horned bulls, but Elkow immediately took off his full-width knee-length coat (sordiak) and proceeded to wave the bottom (palamy) of it at them succeeding in scaring them off.

They finally arrived in Edmonton where Elkow filed and paid for his chosen homestead receiving his title document. He now had the land, but nothing to work with so he sought work again to earn money for the essential items to start farming. He helped with the threshing of grain where he earned 50¢ a day by pushing the straw away with a fork from the thresher. Since he was strong and healthy he produced the work of two men. He demanded to be paid \$1.00 a day wage, but the farmer would not hear of this, but when Elkow threatened to quit, he then consented. Now he was required to work alone where before two men were needed to keep up. He saved enough money to buy a team of oxen and an old wagon which cost \$80.00. Since Ksenia had brought over a few dollars from the old country and had earned some working around the Beaver Creek area she was able to buy one cow. During the winter months the steers were trained to push the wagon as he had no reins. When he said the word "Gee" the oxen would turn right. "Haw" meant a left turn; to go was "Hey" and to stop he used the word "Ho".

Spring had finally arrived and before Easter they set out on their way to their homestead. Elkow, Ksenia, and Mary, who chased the cow, walked behind the wagon, lightening the load for the oxen as their belongings and three younger children were placed in the wagon. The trip was hazardous as the snows had melted leaving many water holes and soft, deep mud. It was frightening for the children as they

feared the wagon would tip and all would be spilled. What with the children screaming in fright, the parents were torn between watching over the oxen and cow, holding the wagon upright when it threatened to tip and pacifying the children. It took them three long days to reach their destination from Beaver Creek, arriving on Good Friday. Next day, Saturday, Elkow cleared a small place and proceeded to make a shelter of sticks, mud and poles. In the meantime all had to sleep in the wagon until the shelter was completed. Two beds were made of newly-cut hay. The cow was also kept in the shelter during the nights as the family feared the bears that prowled around.

Now that their home was built, the parents worked hard to clear some land, as all they had for food was a large sack of flour that would have to last all summer. The breaking of the land was very difficult as spades had to be used to turn the sod.

In the meantime, the cow had a calf. So much joy! They were wealthy now. They had a big homestead with a hay field, a creek running through their land where Ksenia could wash clothes as soap was not to be had, a cabin to live in, a team of oxen, and a wagon. The cow would provide milk for the children.

Just before fall, Elkow built a bigger home, and a barn for the cow and calf. A small amount of wheat was harvested by using flails that he had made. A little lean-to was built on to the house where the wheat was threshed. He also made a grind stone with which to mill and grind their wheat into flour. Pride and joy — bread from their first crop of wheat in Canada, their new homeland!

The bread had to be rationed as there wasn't much wheat. Ksenia could not go out for work to earn some flour as she came down with an infection in her foot. Father had to tend the children and feed the livestock. Because doctors and hospitals were out of reach, Elkow sought help from an Indian, knowledgeable in herbs, etc., who gave him some medicine to apply to the sore foot and which later healed.

Next spring more land was cleared and prepared for the planting of wheat but to little avail as the crop was lost due to an early frost. Before them loomed a long cold winter, and they had no idea of how they would survive without bread.

The parents decided to take their two daughters, Mary aged 13 and Jessie 11 years, to Edmonton to find work for them. This they did, where housework was done for various families who paid each girl \$3.00 a month and provided their room and board.

The younger children stayed indoors most of the time because they had no footwear for winter weather but during the summer months they could run about barefoot. They did, once in a while, sneak out for a



Pearl Sayko in late 1910's. Building in background converted to (kymora).

few stolen moments in the snow or sliding on patches of ice until their mother discovered them.

However, a school was built later on in 1905, situated on SE 15-53-14-W4, the lumber being brought in from Fort Saskatchewan. At first the children in the area attended school during the warmer months only, as it was locked for the wintertime.

That winter was a great hardship for the Saykos as they had very little food. Elkow would go looking for rabbits which, when he shot, were their staple food but the rabbits were not always to be found lurking near the hunter with his gun.

Several neighbors such as the Bushkos, Samoils, Pauks would come over to the Saykos to grind their wheat into flour, so, often for the use of their millstone, they were given a small portion of flour. However, Elkow, by the end of the winter had built millstones for them that he sold at \$7.00 each.

In 1903 more Ukrainian people had settled around them which made it easier for all. Neighbors would get together and take turns to make a trip to Edmonton to get enough flour and staples for the whole neighborhood. Soon enough, news was in the air that a village would be built nearby and would be called Vegreville. Everyone was exceedingly happy as it would not now be necessary to make a long and often hazardous two-week return trip for every little item. Elkow often recalled one trip to Edmonton he had made with his wagon and oxen. His oxen were

attacked by a number of partly wild range cattle when, lo and behold, his faithful dog that he shut in the barn before he left and which had dug his way out, then followed by scent the tracks of his master, had come to his rescue just in time by barking at a young calf which the rest of the herd had followed.

Nearby Sayko's lived a good and very kind Swede who would bring them staples they needed from Edmonton. One day he brought back Jessie, the 11-year-old daughter, as there was no more work available. To make things easier for her family, the Swede hired her to work on his farm for \$10.00 a year plus room and board. She later worked for a Mr. Wagner in Old Vegreville where she learned to speak English fluently. Mary too, for \$6.00 a month, worked for Mr. J. B. Holden who later was mayor of Vegreville.

The Sayko's friend Rudyk who had bought a homestead nearby decided to sell it and move to Edmonton where he hoped life would be easier.

By the year 1905 a railroad from Vegreville to Edmonton was built. The Ukrainian neighbors to the north of them would often drop in to visit and discuss issues as they were on their road home from Vegreville or Edmonton. Their main concern was that they did not have a church to worship in. However, a Basilian priest, Fr. Tymochko, OSBM, would hold masses at the home of Nick Yakimetz. The settlers still very much desired a church, so to that end they worked holding many meetings in the home of Nick Yakimetz. It was finally decided that the construction of one would begin in the spring of 1905 on Sawchuk's land located on SE 28-53-13-W4. The chief builders were to be Nick Yakimetz and Elkow Sayko. The neighbors got together to cut the trees down, haul the logs by oxen and after some time the church was built. It was small and more like a chapel. The women mud-clayed it and then white-washed it. Nick Yakimetz built the main altar, tripod altar and made crosses out of iron or zinc and lead. They called their little church "St. Nicholas Church." (Photo page 790.)

Builders of the church were Harry Bushko, Peter Steblyk, George Yuskow, his daughter Marie Chapelski, Steve Swihun, Steve and Mary Pauk, Yaremko, Samoil's, Misyk, Duke and others. Eventually Elkow Sayko, being handy at carpentry, was called upon to build coffins when needed.

Everyone was very happy as they now had their much hoped-for church. Parishioners would then bring a priest from the Basilian Fathers of Mundare by oxen, (as there were no horses around then), to conduct services.

At last in 1905 Elkow bought a team of two horses, but he didn't want to exert or overwork them



The fourth house built by Elkow Sayko in 1925, burned down in 1936.

as they were very precious. For field work he used to harness the horses and oxen together which worked well although the oxen tended to take their time while the horses pulled hard.

John went to school but Pearl, who was the youngest of the four born in the old country, stayed at home to help with the younger children and help Elkow, her father, in the fields whenever her mother Ksenia stayed home. There were many bears around in the woods when they went to work in the fields, but they never bothered them.

Sometimes a bear would come along and eat the bread left by Elkow for his noonday lunch under the shade of the tree, but he never bothered Elkow. At times, bears would wander right up to the house but never harmed the family. Their dog, however, was frightened of them and would run into the house for protection.

Their Swedish neighbor had a good fire-arm and would sometimes shoot a bear. He melted the fat and distributed it to the surrounding neighbors for medicinal purposes. It was mixed with hot water which they used for coughs and rubbed on their chests for cure of the common colds. It seemed to help some. But then when a hospital was built in Vegreville in 1907, the settlers made trips to visit the doctor or when very necessary, were admitted to the hospital.

Forest fires were a real threat to the settlers. In the fall of 1904 a very big one broke out very near the Sayko home. Elkow and Ksenia harnessed the oxen and worked very hard plowing a strip all around the buildings to save them. Their neighbor, Mr. Bushko, was not so lucky as he lost his barn to the fire.

To Elkow and Ksenia were born five more children; Katie, Peter, Eva, Andrew and Cassie. All of them could not attend much school as their help was so desperately needed at home, as they had bought two more quarters of land adjoining their original

homestead quarter. More than 100 acres located on the N.W. quarter was left to pasture-land, partly because a large creek ran through it. Elkow had by now acquired more implements and horses. Their closest neighbor was two miles away. The church was six miles away to which they walked, adults and children alike. If a priest could not come from Mundare, Mr. Nick Yakimetz read mass and all were happy, even if they couldn't always receive the Holy Sacraments.

Before the family could afford to buy clothing, Ksenia weaved cloth on a loom built by Elkow. She then sewed items of clothing. Shoes were still a luxury for everyday wear.

They decided to build a larger home to accommodate their growing family. So again some of the children were called upon to help haul logs although they begged to go to school. Father taught them, when he could, how to read in Ukrainian, but since he was orphaned and had no schooling he did not know how to write. Ksenia too was left parentless at an early age and received no schooling either.

As their livestock increased, Elkow built a large barn for cows and a lean-to, a barn for horses, a chicken coop, tool shed, granary, and hay shed, all out of logs. These structures were solidly built and withstood the test of time until the 1950's when some were demolished by new owners.

In 1914 tragedy struck their lives. John, after two years of illness, died at the age of 18 years, and was followed just two months later by his sister Kate, aged 14 years. The family experienced much sorrow and the parents grieved for a year, driving out with their family every Sunday when they could to St. Nicholas' Church yard to visit the grave site of their young children, brother, and sister and pray for their departed souls.

In 1916 the parishioners in the district held a meeting with Father Kryzanowsky present where it was decided that a new and larger church was needed as the first one was too small. It was easier to build this time as lumber was used and there were more settlers to help with it.

It was built after a short time on a pretty site on a small piece of land located on the N.W. 22-53-13-W4 one mile south from the site of the original one. A church that they were proud of calling "The Ascension of Our Lord Jesus Christ Church" of New Kiew.

Distance was no barrier to come for Sunday worship. Most came by wagon, sled and horses. Others walked. After a two-hour or longer service and although they had fasted since midnight of that day, all stood around leisurely visiting and exchanging news of family and neighborhood events, recipes, information on crops and implements, etc. Every May in

honor of the Ascension of Our Lord they would celebrate the Holy Liturgy followed by a procession around the church and then gather together for a large feast all prepared, brought in and shared with one another. People would come from everywhere.

In 1918, two years after the church was built, one of the first pioneers, Mr. John Samoil, came to his rest in the cemetery a few hundred yards east of the church in a knoll of woods. He had died of the flu.

In 1925 Elkow and Ksenia built their fourth home on their homestead, this time a stately structure of fine lumber, two stories high and heated with a wood and coal furnace. They had also bought and cleared a fourth quarter of land (N.W. 13-53-14-W4) with their son Andrew's (aged 15) help who used a 22-inch brush breaker and eight horses. The first car owned and bought by their son Peter was a 1925 Model-T Ford.

They worked their fields with larger implements and teams of four or eight horses. Their youngest son, Andrew, had to quit school during Grade V when Elkow, his father, broke his arm while letting horses out of the barn. His help was badly needed. It was fortunate that Andrew, who loved horses, broke them for working and riding. It was while he was bringing them home one day from their pasture a half mile down the road that he caught a ride with a passing motorist (a stranger) and standing on the running board he jumped off at the gateway thinking the motorist wouldn't stop. He slipped under the wheels of the car and had to be taken to R.M.B. Hospital in Vegreville, where he was tended by Dr. R.M. Reid who looked upon a swollen, bloated and unrecognizable young boy. Not really knowing what to do for him as surgery in those days was rare, he was nonetheless able to help him towards recovery. Andrew and his family were very thankful.



Back in house no. 3 after roof remodelled from straw to tar paper, 1938. Families of Pasheyko's, Yasheyko's, Melnychuk's, Eva Mitchell and Sayko's.

He had another narrow escape. While walking through a neighbor's pasture with his young nephews, John and George Pasheyko, on their way home, they became thirsty and decided to dip their lunch (lard) pails into a well of water. Andrew fell in head first and the frightened boys sped off on their heels. Somehow he managed to right himself and when he was thrust upwards for the third time he leapt catching onto the outer edge of the well by his fingertips. The two boys looked back and saw Andrew's fingers clinging to the well's edge; they returned and pulled him out.

The children grew up and married. The first to do so was Mary, the eldest. She married Peter Pasheyko and settled on a farm just one mile away from her parents. Unto them were born ten children: Annie, John, George, Jessie, Katie, Rose, Mike, Bill, Nancy, and Steve. Jessie, their second child, married Peter Melnychuk and farmed in the Myrnam area. They had five children: John, James, Eva, Mary and Violet. Her husband Peter later died and she was married to Fred Preymak. As of this writing she is an energetic, healthy 88-year-old living in Vernon, B.C. Pearl married John Yasheyko in 1918 and also farmed in the Myrnam district. They raised five children: Mike, Rose, Helen, Jean and Harry. Eva married Mike Mitchell and had two children: Violet and Daniel, living most of their lives in Edmonton. Peter graduated from Accounting in 1931 and married Effie Osinchuk. They had one son, Johnny, and lived in Ontario for 16 years, coming back to Edmonton in 1952. He was the first Albertan to complete a new University of Toronto correspondence course in realty studies and was among 34 persons in Canada to graduate out of the first class which started in 1955.

Cassie married Peter Mitchell who served actively in the Canadian Army during the 2nd World War. To them were born three children: Roy, Trudy, and Marshall. Cassie lived in Edmonton for a time, then with her parents, but later moved to B.C. where she still resides. Andrew married Frances Hawryluk in 1931. They joined and lived with his parents as was the custom for sons to do.

In the days of the early settlers, pioneers who worked so hard and lived through insurmountable hardships, made time to worship God in their church, sacrificed time and money for its upkeep, and helped their neighbors in every way possible.

Each day they placed their lives in the Lord's care and thanked Him for their daily bread and many blessings. Great was their faith and trust in God and love for Him and their neighbor.

In the year 1943 Elkow Sayko, at the age of 85 years, went to his final resting place, joining his pioneer neighbours in the cemetery at New Kiew.

Earlier he had made a tiny chapel-like headstone of cement and a crypt of cement below it where he and his wife could rest in final sleep. Ksenia joined his side eight years later, also at the age of 85 years.

Their son Peter died suddenly in April, 1967.

Pearl, too, passed away a few months later, just weeks before reaching her much looked-forward to "Golden Jubilee" celebration of 50 years of marriage to John Yasheyko. Her eldest sister, Mary, went to her rest just two months later.

Schmidt, Adolf and Louise

by Alice (Schmidt) Krause

Early in 1917, Adolf Schmidt, with his wife, Louise, and their family moved to the Imperial District south of Vegreville from the Beaver Hills District, east of Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta.

Their sons:

Arnold, the eldest, started off on his own. He operated a small store at Royal Park, Alberta. There

he met and later married Irene Wynnnychuk. They had one son, Warren. Irene passed away in 1968 — Arnold and Warren's family now live in Cloverdale, B.C.

Adolf became employed with the CN Railway Company as station agent in various towns and later as "telegrapher" and "dispatcher" in Edmonton, Alberta. He and his wife, Olive, had two sons: Robert of Edmonton and Allan, a police detective in Vancouver, B.C. Both sons married. Adolf passed away in 1971 at Penticton, B.C. where his wife Olive resides.

Arthur, the third oldest son, took over his parents' farm. In 1945 they sold their land in the Imperial District and bought a farm near the town of Vegreville where Arthur also established a pure-bred hog ranch. He had great success in this business and won numerous prizes at exhibitions. His father passed away on Christmas Eve at the age of 82 years. His mother lived with Arthur until 1962. She then



The Schmidt farm in Vegreville — about 1955.

retired to a Senior Care Home in Edmonton, where she died on New Year's Eve in 1964, at the age of 93 years and 11 months. In April, 1962, Arthur married Miss Gertrude Holden of Vegreville. They both enjoyed a happy marriage in their new home in Vegreville. Sadly, Gertrude passed away after a lengthy illness in January, 1972. Arthur spent five years in his home, alone, which taxed his health. He then decided to sell his home and property to retire in a Senior Citizens' Home in Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta. Both Arthur and his wife Gertrude were active in various organizations. Arthur held top executive positions, such as in the Chamber of Commerce, The Exhibition Association, Heather Curling Club, Rotary Club, and a number of others. He was a life member of several organizations as well. After taking up residence at the Dr. Turner Lodge in Ft. Saskatchewan, Alberta, he immediately became involved in executive duties, which he enjoyed until his health failed. He passed away after a brief illness on March 9, 1979. His remains rest in the family plots at the Riverside Cemetery in Vegreville.

Fred was employed with the CN Railways and held a position of station agent in various towns.



Arthur and Gertrude (Holden) Schmidt on their wedding day, April 1962.

While stationed at Marshal, Saskatchewan, he met and later married Bertha Walker. They had two daughters: Norma, Mrs. Blasetti (widowed) of Calgary; and Audrey, Mrs. Sabastian of Victoria, B.C. Fred's wife, Bertha, died in 1975. Fred then moved to Calgary from Edmonton. He passed away quite suddenly in October, 1978.

William ("Bill") learned the Grain Buyer's trade. He was grain agent at Inland and Vegreville and later transferred to Brooks and Taber, Alberta, where he became superintendent for the Alberta Pool Company in the Southern Alberta area. Bill met and married Georgina Johnston of Vegreville. They were blessed with three sons and four daughters: William, Jr., Melvin, and Bryan; Shirley (R.N.) Walker, Laurel, Nola and Connie — all are now married and have families of their own. Bill was killed in the prime of his life in a car collision near Taber, Alberta. Georgina, Bill's wife, remained living in Taber, Alberta.

Clarence ("Jeff") married Marjory Sampson of Vegreville. They had three daughters, Geraldine, Betty, Diane and one son, Gordon. Clarence was in



Arthur Schmidt and his mother, 1946.

the grain business and later in the Vegreville Transfer. He and his family then moved to California, U.S.A.

Bennie was a young boy when he died.

Earl, the invalid son, passed away later.

Their daughters:

Olga was married to Fred Weder, who passed away in 1970. He had a business in Vilna and St. Paul, Alberta. They had two sons — William ("Bill") who married Dorothy Frederking. Bill is principal of a Jr. High School in Edmonton and his wife also teaches school. They have one daughter, Candice. Fred Jr., the second son, was married to Erna Cummings. They had one son, Goeffrey, and one daughter, Wendy. Fred Jr. was employed with an Oil Company. He passed away in 1971 after a brief illness. Fred and Olga's eldest daughter Dorothea is married to Irvin Likness of Edmonton. They have two sons, Gregory and Tom, and one daughter, Donna. Dr. Marguerite Weder is married to Ron Collett. They have no family. Marguerite is in practice (chiropractor) in Edmonton. Olga, Mrs. Weder, retired in Edmonton.

Alice married W. A. Krause, who owned a Grain and Milling Company. They have two sons and one daughter, Barbara Alice. Their son, Gilbert, is a

bookkeeper and lives at home — single. Their son, Vernon, is a medical doctor. He is employed at the Isaac Walton Killiam Hospital in Halifax, Nova Scotia, as chief pathologist. Vernon Krause married Isabel Merriman, R.N. They have two sons and two daughters. Barbara Alice Krause married Dr. James Moscovich. He teaches at the University of Western Ontario in London, Ontario. Barbara is a French and English High School teacher there, too.

Emma ("Emmy") Schmidt was a graduate nurse. She married Rev. Edward Neben of Nebraska, U.S.A. They had four daughters — Carol, Arlene, Marilyn and Judy, and one son, Ronald. All are married. Emma's husband passed away in 1968. She now lives at 4244 E. Street, Lincoln, Nebraska, U.S.A. 68510.

Meta Schmidt was married to Clifford Condin. They had two daughters: June Mrs. Mitchel of Edson; and Rosemary, Mrs. Hugh Grant of Victoria, B.C., a registered nurse. Also, one son, Lorne, who resides in B.C. Meta passed away in 1966 in Ft. St. John, B.C. She had married again to Dave Jamieson of Ft. St. John.

We should mention here that Adolf Schmidt Sr. and his wife, Louise, were devout in their faith.



Building curling arena, 1954. Arthur Schmidt in middle.



Irene Finlay, Imperial School teacher, 1929.



Schmidt brothers moving lumber, 1919.

They were instrumental in establishing the Lutheran Mission and Church in Vegreville.

It would be a pleasure for some of the family who are still living to meet or hear from the many old friends and acquaintances in and around Vegreville. There are many fond memories.

Schneider, Chris And Rennetta by Cora And Rennetta Schneider

Christian Schneider was born in Russia on the 23 of December, 1882. His father's name was John Schneider. He came to Canada in the year 1896 at the age of 13 years. They settled near Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta, on a homestead. In the year 1914, Christian bought some land in Mundare, Alta. and was on his own till the year 1915. He got himself a faithful helper, August 11, 1915 from Bruderheim, Alta. named Rennetta Klammer. In the year 1918, Mr. and Mrs. Christian Schneider sold the farm in Mundare, Alta., and bought a farm east of Vegreville, Alta. There he farmed for 43 years. They were blessed with 3 children, Myrtle, Cora and a son, Walter. They too had their ups and downs and lots of work. They all worked together and were very happy on the farm in the Highlow District. In the year 1955 they received a Master Farm award which was quite an honor.

In the year 1961, they came to Chilliwack, B. C. and again started in and had a peach orchard. In the year 1966, Chris felt he was not able to climb trees much longer so sold and took life easy. His health was not good. He developed diabetes and cancer, and on August 21, 1967, he got a slight stroke and went to hospital. On August 26, 1967, he passed away to be with the Lord at the age of 84 years and 8 months. He

is survived by his wife Rennetta, two daughters, Mrs. Myrtle Macdonald and Cora Schneider and a son, Walter.

Mr. and Mrs. Christian Schneider had their Golden Wedding Anniversary on August 11, 1965.

Chris was a very hard worker, cleared and broke land, cut trees, and picked the roots, first with horse, then with the truck. We had lots of help, usually 2 hired men and more. We sold lots of seed grains, did lots of cooking, but enjoyed it all. Myrtle is a gradu-



Chris Schneider family, on Highlow farm, 1940.



Chris Schneider sitting on threshing machine, before 1915.



Chris Schneider master family farm, E $\frac{1}{2}$ 23-52-14 W4 in Highlow district northeast of Vegreville, after 1961.



Mr. and Mrs. Chris Schneider (seated front) of Chilliwack; formerly of Vegreville. About 1965.

ate nurse; she has had 12 years in India. Cora had 2 years at the Agriculture School at Vermilion, Alta. Walter had 1 year at Agriculture School at Vermilion, Alta.; he had grade 12 at Vegreville. Cora and Walter had calves in the 4-H Club. Cora is a home girl.

We had a milking parlour for 3 cows — could milk 2 at one time while one milker washed the other one. We milked around 35 cows at Vegreville, Alta.

We had hot and cold water run into the house, cow-barn and hog-pen. The house had 2 bathrooms. We gave the two quarters of land with the buildings to Walter and we sold the two quarters across the road.

We have a peach orchard here at Chilliwack, B. C. and we enjoy it.

Schultz, Elmer Robert and Lois by Lois Schultz

Elmer Schultz was born to a well-known south Vegreville family, Robert Schultz and Katie (Albrecht) April 1, 1937. On the other side of town, in the Willington district, a girl, Lois Margaret, was born to Joseph Wilfred Bolan and Leona (Eudora Jewell) in July of the same year, 1937.

On July 13, 1957, Elmer Schultz and Lois Bolan were married and farmed in the south Vegreville

District and the family still maintains the lands purchased over the years.

Elmer enjoyed farming along with being involved in many farm organizations and community affairs. During their married years, Elmer, Lois and family raised turkeys, sold turkey hatching eggs, raised sheep, cattle, pigs, chickens and even bees for awhile. They have since specialized in raising hogs and chickens besides grain.

They were blessed with four children: Joan Patricia (Raugust) born October 11, 1958; David Elmer born February 10, 1960; Barbara Ruth born August 8, 1961; and Bryan Timothy born January 3, 1963. The boys are very active in hockey and other sports in school and the girls are athletic, as well as being in 4-H Sewing, music, band, choirs, etc.

Elmer became a pilot in 1969 and was involved in aerial crop-spraying in rural areas and districts. He was accidentally killed in June, 1978, while crop spraying not far from home. He loved flying and



The Elmer Schultz family, (l. to r.) — Elmer, Barbara, Lois, Joan, David and Bryan. At home, 1975.



Left to right — Barbara Schultz, Joan Schultz and David Schultz. Elmer took the picture at the Abbotsford Air Show, 1975.

enjoyed being useful to his neighbors and friends. The family still farms in the same place.

A Tribute to the Memory of Elmer Schultz — Courtesy Vegreville Observer

For those of us who knew Elmer well, he was more than a friend or neighbor. He was a unique character. Elmer seemed to take to heart that verse in the Bible found in Ecclesiastes 9:10 which states “whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might.”

Elmer did a lot of things well. He was more than a pilot or a farmer. He could build houses or any kind of buildings; he was his own designer, architect and engineer. He was adept at every kind of trade; but he was not a jack-of-all-trades, he was a master of all trades. He was a livestock and poultry husbandman and had success as a beekeeper. He was a good hunter and enjoyed skiing. He coached hockey and was involved in many different organizations.

Elmer liked people. With his ready smile and humour, he made friends easily wherever he went: across Western Canada, which was his home, or in Haiti, where he served.

How will we, his friends, remember him? We will remember his laughter and his smile, perhaps a practical joke or two. We will remember the dip of his wings in a friendly greeting. We will remember him with every drone of a light plane which he loved to fly so much.

Elmer Schultz was a Christian. This faith holds out to everyone the hope of an eternity of peace and joy in the Realm of Heaven above! Fly on, dear friend and Christian brother, through the galaxies of heaven. Fly On!

Schultz, George Burkhardt by Ethel (Schultz) Sharkey

In 1961 our granddad Schultz's brother Earl approached me to collect data on our family before too many who had this information were gone. Many letters and old family bible records later, and the family began to emerge.

The first George Schultz, January 14, 1803-January 1881, came from the Rhine Valley in Germany to the United States, settling in the Craig and Mound City areas of Missouri. He married Elmira Bean, (December 24, 1806-June 25, 1892) and had five sons and two daughters. Their second son Christian, (May 8, 1837 to February 11, 1865) died. They had one son and three daughters. Our granddad, George Buckhart, (September 1884 to April 5, 1957) and sister Nettie are both laid to rest in the Vegreville Cemetery. I have no dates for Nettie but I believe she

died in the late 1940's. Christian, along with brother Calvin and two friends, laid out the townsite of Craig, Missouri, in 1868. Christian had the first Post Office and was postmaster; Calvin owned a store and grist mill. Christian and Mollie's daughter was the first child born in the new town of Craig. Christian was also an officer in the Craig Lodge No. 371 of the Ancient Tree Masons Organization which was started July 14, 1870. Christian remarried for the third time late in life to Nancy Arringdale. I believe they are all laid to rest in the New Liberty Cemetery in Craig, Missouri, U.S.A.

Our granddad, George Burkhart Schultz, married Bertha Metzgar in Mound City, Missouri in 1904. Their daughter Mary was born February 29, 1906. The family moved to Canada via rail to Shelby, Montana, from there to Didsbury via mules and wagons to homestead. Our dad, George Dayton, (May 4, 1907 to August 18, 1958) was born in Didsbury and Aubrey and James, March 8, 1912, might also have been born in this area. The family moved to homestead in the Delia area around 1913, where Victor, (February 12, 1914) was born. Bertha died May 4, 1914 as a result of an accident; Bertha being the second or third person buried in the Delia Cemetery. Later in 1914, Nettie, George's youngest sister, arrived from Missouri to take over the task of raising the children. The next move was to an area called Gopher Head in 1919, another move in 1924 to Ryley and finally in 1926 to Vegreville.

Mary married John Knudslein of Ryley and had two sons, George and Elvin.

George D. (Mike) married Vera Marrill and had three daughters, Ethel, Darlene and Shirley.

Aubrey married Lymie Hill and had a son, James, and a daughter, Lynn.

James married Helen Foster and had a daughter, Kathleen.

Victor married Anne Eaton and they had one son, Clayton.

Granddad lived until his death on an acreage about a mile north of Vegreville. I best remember him for his rather droll sense of humor and the odd rather smelly fat cigar. Gladys Hughston (he was her Uncle George) and myself stayed with him during grade nine and high school. He never said a word when we decided to take over the cooking, making macaroni; several dirty pots later, the macaroni now in a larger roaster, he handed out advice on expansion! We ate macaroni for a week and to this day I have had reactions to the stuff! Another time, in the wet muddy spring I needed rubber boots; since Dad and Mom couldn't get in I consulted Granddad. Of course the "white" rubber boots were "in"; Granddad bought black ones because who ever heard of

white in the mud? I can remember Granddad letting us watch him make meat balls for the minks, but his cages were out of bounds for kids! He raised certified oats on his acreage and when he was found dead on the road from a massive heart attack, he was on his way to Ryley with a sample for Mary and her family to test.

Granddad also raised a good garden, had a few goats and a water-well pounder. I shall always remember him coming down the road, his little John Deere B tractor just a-popping, pulling the water-well equipment.

Granddad, his son Mike, daughter-in-law Vera, daughter Mary and her husband John are all gone now; they are so sadly missed but have left us all with so many happy memories.

Schultz, George B. **written by son Victor**

Dad and Mother came to Canada from Missouri, U. S. A. in 1907 along with Mother's large family, the Metzgars. One of this family was Mrs. Ida Teare, a sister. Her story will also be found in this book.

Dad homesteaded and worked with horses and mules in the areas around Didsbury, Carstairs, Delia and Ryley before finally coming to Vegreville in about 1927. A tragic accident in 1914 took Mother's life leaving him with five small children aged from nine years to three months. His sister, Nettie, came from Missouri and made a home for us. She devoted the balance of her life to us and finally died in Vegreville in 1944.

I believe that Dad ploughed and graded many of the streets in Vegreville in about 1926 or 1927 as he had a large J. I. Case steam tractor. He also did custom threshing with it. When the golf course was created in the middle thirties he was hired as the first caretaker and did this for several years. Many of the original players will recall George, always accom-



George B. Schultz and Topsy — about 1935.



Victor and Ann Schultz, 1935.

panied by his black dog Topsy, and his .22 rifle which kept the gopher population under control.

About 1943 he purchased a well-drilling outfit and drilled many wells in the town and surrounding district. I understand that some of these are still producing good water. In about 1955 he had a severe accident on the machine when his clothing became entangled and he eventually died in Vegreville in 1957.

His family consisted of from eldest to youngest:

Mary Knudslien. She did not live long in Vegreville, married and spent most of her life in Ryley. She died there in about 1966.

George D. Locally known as Mike. He and his wife Vera farmed in the vicinity north-west of the town. They had three daughters, Ethel, Shirley and Darlene. He died in about 1960.

Aubrey C. He worked in and around Vegreville for a few years, after leaving school. At one time for a dairy operated by Mr. Harris. He returned to southern Alberta to farm and eventually to the Red Deer area. He and wife, Lymie, are now retired in Red Deer. They have two children, James and Lynne.

James F. Jim and I went to Vegreville Public and High Schools and came under the influence of such memorable persons as Mr. McCrea, Miss Ada I. Wright, Ruth Balaam, Daphne Garrison, Mr. Hayhurst, Gordon Strong and others. Jim left Vegreville in about 1932 to join the Canadian Army Permanent Force and served until some years after the war. He then resided on a small holding in White Rock for many years. He now lives in retirement in Richmond, B. C. His first wife, Helen, died several years ago. They had one child, Kathleen. He has now remarried to Mrs. Frieda Walker.

Victor C. I worked, while still in school, for the late Mr. Abe Klimoff, then in the old Vegreville Drug and Book Co., first for Mr. C. E. Shaw, then for The Third Brothers, Jim and Clayton, from 1929 until 1941 when I enlisted in the R. C. A. F. I remember those drug store days with many fond memories of the people I dealt with daily, especially Dr. R. M. Reid whose office was in the drug store. In 1934 Ann Eaton of Lavoy and I were married by Reverend S. H. Irving in Edmonton. Many will recall his ministry in Vegreville. We had one child, Clayton, in 1939. I served almost five years as a pilot in the Air Force, mostly as a flying instructor in Ontario, finally did some operational flying in flying boats on both coasts of Canada. After discharge in early 1946, I elected to take advantage of the Educational Program provided by the Dept. of Veteran Affairs and resumed my formal schooling after an absence from school of sixteen years. Finally, I graduated from University of B. C. in Arts and Sciences in 1949 and from McGill University in Montreal in medicine in 1953. I practised in Vancouver for about nine years with the capable assistance of my wife, Ann, as my office nurse and then took a position with the Dept. of Veteran Affairs in Shaughnessy Hospital in Vancouver until I reached compulsory retirement age in February, 1979. Ann and I now live in retirement in Vancouver. In July, 1979, we returned to Vegreville for a short visit and were able to find a few folks who remember us. We found the town much changed but Main Street seemed very familiar.

Scott, William George by Marjorie Maria (Scott) Tuck

William George Scott was born in Monaham County, near the town of Ballabay, Armagh, Ireland, April 19, 1819. Death came June 4, 1901 at Lawrence, Mich, U.S.A. Maria, his wife, died October 3, 1892, age 73 years, also buried at Chicago Heights, Ill. She was born at Grand Island, Vermont, U.S.A. She married William George Scott November 5, 1842. This is just a brief history of my grandparents whom I never knew.



Mrs. William (Lillian) Scott and some of her turkeys, about 1918.

My dad, William George Scott, was born April 19, 1864, at Bloomstown, Illinois, where he lived and went to school and worked for an electric company as high-power lineman; also worked at the first Chicago World's Fair as a lineman.

In 1898 he was united in marriage to Lillian May Woods from Oran, Missouri, in a ceremony at St. Louis, Mo., May 31, 1898. There Lillian May, Dwight and Clyde were born. In 1906 they moved to Chicago Heights where William George Scott had inherited sixty acres of the ancestral farm near the town of Chicago Heights. The sixty acres had no buildings but soon a house was built and they went into dairy cattle and did some mixed farming. There, four more children were born: George, Grace, Florence and William (Bill).

In October, 1912, the family with seven children moved to Vegreville. What a time my mother must have had with a baby three months old weighing only three pounds, and six more children to look after. They put all their belongings in a box car which had a stove and some water, etc. and my mother did the washing for three kiddies in diapers and prepared the meals. I wonder what they ate and how they dried the diapers on the way up. No "Pampers" in those days! My dad was no help when it came to changing diapers and cooking. In those days that was women's work.

But he was the baby of a family of nine children so was spoiled, as we were told by mother. Today in 1979, the men think nothing of baby-sitting and changing diapers and helping with the housework.

It took them two weeks to get to Vegreville on a slow-moving train. Lillian was only twelve years old, but did the work of a mother's helper, looking after the wee ones. They landed in Vegreville and moved into a one-roomed shack which they rented in the town; then as winter came on, they moved to the Harry Payne farmhouse north of Vegreville.

In the spring of 1913 they moved to a farm in the Imperial District. On one quarter was a two-room log



Mr. and Mrs. William Scott's 50th wedding anniversary, 1948.

shack with a sod roof. There were log barns and an open well with a pulley and bucket. How my mother must have worked carrying all the water to the house! This quarter was partly under cultivation as also was the west quarter. Another frame room was added to the original two rooms during the first year. Here, Horace was born October 24, 1915, at the farm with the help of good neighbour, Mrs. Fred Richardson. She helped us over many a hard time and remained a good friend to my mother over the years.

In the next year a new house was built on the west quarter of section 17-twp 51-range 15; also a new barn and a large granary. The house had three rooms, one large 20' x 12' kitchen, a living room and one bedroom. Upstairs was one large room never finished and is not to this day. (The house is still standing). We kids all slept upstairs. My mother put up sheets made out of flour sacks so we could have some privacy. There was just a dug-out under the house which we used for storing vegetables and canned goods. At this home Ruth, Marjorie, Dorothy and Walter Allan (Buddy) were born. In a few years they added a big porch or (as I called it) a catch-all.

We all went to school at Imperial except Buddy who started school at Old Vegreville. Buddy was

born in 1924, the only time I can remember my mother being in the hospital until later on in life.

Dad bought the farm from Stonehocker at Old Vegreville in 1927, but we didn't move for some years. Then he built a new house in 1927 and with all new furniture we moved in before Christmas. We felt really classy then, as we kids thought at least we had our own rooms. But in June the old house next to the new one caught on fire from a brooder stove and destroyed both houses.

At the time of the fire my mother was asleep in the new house but Carswell Gorsline was working across the road and saw the fire and ran over and woke my mother and called for help from all the neighbors and got Dad and the boys out of the field. Grace was home but was out riding horseback and we kids were on our way home from school. We were driving an old white horse and a buggy at the time. When we saw the fire Horace got out and ran as fast as he could run — faster than the old horse could go. But thanks to the Gorsline family, the Joe Cassidys and Mr. Hulett we were all taken in for the night and the next day we were settled into two granaries — one for cooking and eating and one for sleeping. But Dad and the boys slept in the barn all that summer. In the fall we had a home again but not so grand as our first home because the carpenters had to rush to get it finished before the snow came. We kids didn't get back to school again until fall but the teacher promoted us all into the next grade.

The first death in our family came in the fall of 1926; George Morton Scott, age nineteen years, was going to school at the Boys' Home in Vegreville where he contracted scarlet fever and rheumatic fever. He passed away at the home in Imperial district and is buried in the family plot at Riverside Cemetery in Vegreville.

Lillian went to the General Hospital in Edmonton and trained for a nurse at the age of eighteen and graduated in 1924 with a high standard of nursing; she was married in 1926 to Dr. Harlen Lindley; they

had no children. Some time later she contracted T. B. and was in the sanitarium off and on for years.

Mr. and Mrs. Scott lived at Old Vegreville on the farm until they retired in 1945 to Vegreville where they bought a small house on the corner, one block from the post office where they lived out their lives.

After Mr. and Mrs. Scott moved to Vegreville they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Marjorie made their cake and, with the help of Mrs. Ethel Withers, decorated it. Very quietly we had a small party with some of the family, including Gail Leishman, a granddaughter. We presented them with a table, flowers and the cake. Later that year, November, 1948, Mr. Scott died and is buried in Riverside cemetery. Mother died January 16, 1964.

Dwight, the second oldest, was a garage man at Jarvie for a good many years. He was a friend to all in that part of the country. He helped many a farmer or homesteader at the time Flatbush and Jarvie were opened to homesteaders. He passed away in 1967 after a lengthy illness. His widow, Myrtle, died in 1972, victim of a deranged hitch-hiker.

The rest of the family is living in Alberta and British Columbia and all are well.

Scritsmier, William and Mamie

William Scritsmier and Mamie Viola Miller were both born and spent their early years in Bloomer, Wisconsin. In 1892 they were married and in 1903 they came to Vegreville.

His brother-in-law, Richard Dake, came to settle at the same time, bringing much household and farming equipment, also six head of purebred Percherons and Aberdeen Angus cattle, probably the first in the district. After he moved off section 15 (where Gordon Brennan now lives) Mr. Scritsmier bought and moved on to this piece of land and later bought and moved to section 12 (where Clinton Ziegler now lives) where he raised purebred Shorthorn. Over the years he acquired other parcels of land totalling approximately eight sections. These he rented out.

A familiar sight in the fall of the year was his large yellow wagons with four head of horses on each hauling grain from these rented farms. In those days land was always share-cropped.

In his lifetime he owned two cars — a 1927 and a 1934 Dodge. In the town of Vegreville he built and owned Warrens Meat Market and Cold Storage, the Beaver Block, the Marshall Wells Block, and Northern Hardware and owned and remodelled the Star Block, a building moved in from Old Vegreville, which later became Wades' Furniture Store. There are other buildings too numerous to mention in Vegreville and on farms. He also did some contract work with Charlie Gordon.



Mrs. Lillian Scott at Imperial district farm, getting ready to milk the cows, about 1918.

Old-timers will remember Mrs. Scritsmier very well, as for several years she assisted in the store then run by Clements and Son, later Clements Ltd. In later years she resided on the farm at Park Grove. She died in 1943.

In 1945 Mr. Scritsmier sold all of his land to Veterans Land Act. Later he moved to Vancouver where he passed away.

Selph, Thomas and Edith

by Edith (Selph) Wyllie and Ken Selph

When the Selphs were living in England in 1913, Dad met a Mr. Brossland and in conversation learned he owned a quarter of land in Canada that he wanted to sell. Dad was interested in going to Canada and he bought the land, sight unseen, and on the first of April, 1914, sailed for Canada with his wife, Edith, and daughters Dora (age five) and Edith (age three) and their household effects. What a lot of courage it must have taken to leave all their friends and relatives and move to a strange country to take up farming, especially when all the knowledge they had was that Dad knew how to drive a single horse and mother could milk a cow!

The journey took two weeks and we arrived in Vegreville on April 14, 1914, and were met at the station by Willis Cole. The land that Dad purchased was the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of 16-51-15-W4. There was very little broken on the quarter and all the buildings were log with sod roofs, except the house which had a shingle roof. When we arrived at the farm in April, you could look across the fields through cracks between the logs. Families that had lived on the land previously were a Mr. Brigham and Tom Balaam.

Our nearest neighbors were Frank Dennis, a bachelor, one-half mile east, and the Willis Cole family one and one-half miles north. The George Stewart family moved out from Vegreville in about 1917 and lived just across the road.

Mother always planted a big garden and raised

chickens and turkeys and was an ardent wild berry-picker.

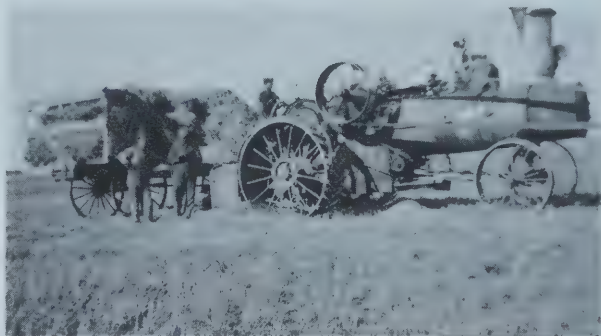
In 1917, Dad built a new barn on the site of the old cow barn (that was the end of the first log building). The man that supervised the building of the barn was Tom Leask. There was a well dug on the farm, and Dad dug another; both had hard water. In 1922, Mr. Guichon drilled a new well on the farm and I'll never forget Mother's delight when she was told it was soft water; that was the end of melting snow and straining slough water. That drilled well is still serving the farm well after fifty-seven years.

Dora and I didn't start school very early as the nearest school was in Old Vegreville, and we had to wait until Dora was old enough to drive a horse. Dad bought a pony from Mr. Mayaux who lived at Inland and at Easter, 1919, we started school. Our first teacher was Claire La Fleur; she was there until the end of June and the next year Miss Doucette was our teacher. It was customary to unharness the horses and let them graze in the school yard. I remember one day our pony got out of our school yard, so we had to walk home. Dora walked on to Mayaux where she was sure the pony had gone and I went on home. Next morning we looked very foolish walking to school leading the pony because she had never been broke to ride. I might add it wasn't long before she was broke; that pony saw us all through school and lived to be thirty years old. Dad and some of the neighbors were working to get a new school in our district and in September, 1920, we started school in the new Ideal School; our first teacher was Miss Margaret McDonald. January, 1920, was also the year that our brother Ken was born.

In 1920 Dad and Frank Dennis purchased the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ 16-51-15-W4 from Mrs. Tetreau. Dad owned the north eighty and Mr. Dennis the south eighty; Frank Dennis owned and lived on the NW 10-51-15 and owned the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ 15-51-15 which was previously owned by Ellis Thomas, Merle Thomas's father. In



Tom Selph and Willis Cole hauling grain to Inland railway siding (not elevator). 1917.



Frank Dennis' steam engine during threshing time. Frank on steamer, Tom Selph and Willis Cole standing, about 1915.

1923, a new house was built on the eighty acres. Shortly after that, Dave Hyde, who had been working for Hank Trenhaile, bought Frank Dennis's north quarter; we then had another neighbor.

For the first number of years Frank Dennis did most of the threshing with his big steam engine, then Bartle Brandle was the next with a gas tractor. Frank Dennis did breaking with his steamer and a big plow that had many furrows. Then Sam Little and Martin Cassidy broke a lot of land for Dad with horses. Bartle Brandle also had a breaking plow and broke land for Dad.

In 1914, there was a prairie fire that came through the yard and burnt a couple of log buildings; it wasn't until the neighbors came rushing into the yard with horses and ploughs that Mother and Dad realized what was happening. Thank goodness that was the first and the last! Mother was so scared Dad had to get her up on the roof of the house so she could see that it wasn't coming back.

Social life in the district was gatherings in family homes, when the furniture would be set back and we danced to an accordion or mouth organ. I remember going to a barn dance at Willis Cole's when an electric storm came up and lightning struck and burnt a barn on the farm of people named Swan (now owned by John Hunchak).

After Dad's barn was built, there were many barn

dances held with music supplied by Archie Steele and his violin.

The family was quite fortunate health-wise although the winter of 1919-1920 was a bad year: Dora spent quite a long time in the hospital with scarlet fever, complicated with diphtheria. Mother was also in the hospital for a time. More land was purchased, namely the south eighty of 16-51-15 in 1929, and the north-west of 10-51-15 in 1946. Dad passed away in May, 1954 at seventy-seven after a heart attack. Ken carried on the farm with the help of hired families. In 1956, Mother had a heart attack and passed away in April, 1957, aged eighty-one. In 1961, Doug and Joyce Wyllie and their two little boys, Dwayne and Brent, came to work with Ken. The NW ¼ of 15-51-15-W4 was purchased in 1976. Ken left the farm in 1979 and Doug Wyllie and his family are now farming the original farm where his grandfather started in 1914.

Semeniuk, John M. and Anna

John Michael Semeniuk was born on February 28, 1881, in Kolomea, Ukraine, which was under Austrian rule at that time. He had one brother and one sister. He served in the Austrian army from 1901 to 1904. The promise of good land and a better life lured him to Canada in 1908. His ship landed in Halifax and he then set off for the Prairies and finally settled in Edmonton. Over the years he worked in a coal mine, cut and sold wood, operated a dray business and bought and sold horses. On one of his buying trips he stopped at Willingdon and there he met Anna Popowich, the lady who was destined to become his wife.

Anna was born July 10, 1894, in the Ukraine and moved to Canada in 1901 with her parents, two brothers and one sister. The family settled in the Willingdon area. For a time the family was forced to live in a dugout shelter and had to survive on fish, prairie chicken and wild ducks. It was three years before they were able to buy a cow. Acute hunger was prevalent as a result of the prairie fires at that time. Three more children were born in Canada and Anna's mother died in 1909, two weeks after childbirth. Anna was fourteen years old at the time and had to take over her mother's duties. There were no doctors or nurses and there was no school.

John and Anna were married on November 10, 1915, and moved to a farm at Boian where they operated a country store for two years. They bought a homestead at Spedden but gave it up because of the abundance of rocks which made the land unsuitable for farming.

In July, 1917, John moved to the Lavoy area to break up an entire section of land for Peter Svarich.



Mr. and Mrs. Tom Selph, 1927.

He slept under a wagon box and cooked his meals on an open fire until he was able to build a cabin. Anna and infant daughter Mary joined him in October, 1917. Eventually all of the land was broken with horses. John loved his horses and was very proud of them. He bred and raised many fine Percherons and over the years he exhibited them at the Vegreville Fair and took a great many prizes.

John and Anna were good neighbors and never turned away anyone who was hungry or needed lodging for the night. In 1955 they bought a house in Lavoy and retired, and their son, Mike, and his wife, Edna, took over the farm. They enjoyed their quiet, peaceful retirement together for fifteen years. On May 5, 1970, John M. Semeniuk passed away at the age of eighty-nine. His last request was to be taken to his final resting place by a horsedrawn democrat. Through the courtesy of Mr. Doug Rattray, who supplied the horses and Mr. Barney Welsh, who supplied the democrat, his wish was fulfilled.

Anna is still living in Lavoy and keeps herself ever busy braiding rugs and other useful articles. She is known to everyone as "BABA" and especially enjoys having her large family nearby.

John and Anna raised a family of five children: Mary, Helen, Mike, Madeleine and Vera. They all married and the family has multiplied. Twenty-three grandchildren were born but two grandsons are deceased, and to date there are twenty-four great-grandchildren.

Mary married Paul Semeniuk, December 14, 1935, and they have lived in Lavoy since that time and have raised four children.

John married Patricia McKenzie July 25, 1975. He is an instructor at N.A.I.T. and Pat works for Imperial Oil.

Terry married Josephine (Jo) Scibish, June 17, 1961. Terry is a partner in Vegreville Plumbing and he and Jo have four children: Shawna, Bradley, Trevor and Dana.

Katherine married Marshall Cymbaluk on November 3, 1962. They live in Everitt, Washington, where Marshall has the I.H. dealership in conjunction with a repair shop. Kathy received her R.N. at Vegreville General Hospital and still takes courses to improve her career. They have one son, Jeffrey.

Lillian married Keith Marsden on August 26, 1961. Lillian is a legal secretary and she is raising their two daughters Nichole and Holly.

Helen, the second daughter, married Bill Footz October 17, 1938. They farmed north-east of Lavoy, on land formerly owned by Elwood McKee, until Bill passed away February 26, 1965. Helen now lives in Lavoy. Their children:

Loretta married Grant Ferch April 28, 1962.

They are farming at Kipling, Saskatchewan. Loretta received her R.N. at Vegreville General Hospital and is still nursing.

Their children are: Brett and Ward.

Edward graduated from Vegreville High School in 1959 and was looking forward to attending University but passed away in an unfortunate accident on July 20, 1959.

Michael married Audrey. He is a technician at the ITV station. Audrey has worked at the Royal Alex Hospital in Medical Records. They have a daughter Allison.

Linda Margaret (Michael's twin) married James Marsden. Jim works at the Post Office in Edmonton and Linda works for Calgary Power. They have two sons, Blair and Craig.

Lorraine married Claude Robert. Claude works at Vantage Builders. They have two boys, Jeremy and Scott.

Lesleah has graduated from High School and is working for Calgary Power Surveyors.

Mike, the only son, married Edna Orfino November 7, 1953.

They live on the original Semeniuk farm north of Lavoy. They have five children:

Michael married Beverly Dumont and they have two girls, Lisa and Trisha.

John married Betty Bey.

Tony married Trudy Fedoruk and they have one son Chris. Tony passed away in November, 1977.

Their only daughter Debbie works at the Royal Alex in Edmonton.

Robbie is attending school in Lavoy.

Madeleine, the third daughter, married Mike Footz (brother of Helen's husband Bill) on June 7, 1946. Mike had been in the armed forces of World War 2 and returned to the Lavoy district where he bought a farm which they still operate. Their children are:

Gerry married Phyllis Bellavance. He works for the city of Edmonton with Water and Sanitation and Phyllis is an R.N. at the Royal Alex. They have two daughters, Jessica and Jerico.

Randy married Jeanette Shewchuk. They are both teaching in Vegreville and have one daughter Jillian.

Susan married Regan Berry. She is a legal secretary and Regan works for Alberta Power in Edmonton.

Vera, the youngest daughter, married Walter Fundytus from the Aplomb district and they farm north-east of Lavoy. Their children are:

Theresa married Gary Lacusta of Vegreville who now works for the C.N. at Wabamun. They have a daughter Pamela and a son Kyle.

Christine married Lawrence Gizowski of Vegreville. They now reside at Fort Saskatchewan where Lawrence is a foreman for C.N. They have two daughters, Corrine and Kerri.

Darcy is still at home and he owns a gravel truck and works for Twin Lake Construction.

Deana and Dolly are still at home and are attending school.

Semotiuk, Harry and Olga

Harry Semotiuk (originally from the Mundare area) moved to the Park Grove community in the spring of 1946, after receiving his discharge from the Canadian Army, with which he served for four years overseas during World War II, with the British Columbia Dragoons Armoured Tank Corp as gunner operator. The following spring, April 24, 1947, he married Olga Lazaruk, originally of the Willingdon area. With her, she brought many homemaking and farming skills, as well as a diploma from a School of Dressmaking and Designing. Together they began to turn a large piece of summerfallow (with 4 granaries) into a homestead with trees, building, crops and livestock. Through the years they have worked hard in developing a very attractive and fruitful farm.

Harry and Olga have two children. Their son Merwood helps with the farm work, and has inherited his father's love for music, as he often enjoys playing the drums, guitar and piano. Their daughter Melissa is a University graduate in Education and has taught school at Saddle Lake and presently teaching Grade 1 at Carstairs, Alberta. She too has inherited her family's love for music and has often joined her family in playing for many local dances and weddings. She also enjoys doing many of the Ukrainian handicrafts taught to her by her mother. Melissa was a 4-H member for some six years and won many efficiency awards and exchange trips.

Harry has been an active member of the Vegreville Branch of the Canadian Legion for 31 years. As well, he has, for many years, taken an active interest in the community and their Unifarm local. Harry was also one of the two people who started the Dr. Cairn's School for Retarded Children in Vegreville, of which he was president for a number of years. Harry is very talented musically and has been playing violin since he was 12 years old. Throughout the years he has played for countless weddings and dances.

Olga has also taken interest in the community and the Unifarm local. She has held all offices for the Women of Unifarm and was secretary for eight years. Olga has always enjoyed working with young people and was a 4-H leader for 13 years. Such dedication in helping young people was rewarded when she was

awarded a trip to Montana from the 4-H department. Olga also is a director with the Vegreville Exhibition, and has exhibited many of her talents. Her handicrafts, many of Ukrainian artistry, have often won top prizes in local exhibitions.

Harry and Olga and their family have continued to lead rich lives in many ways. Their dedication in developing a happy and prosperous home for their family has certainly paid off. Such warmth is radiant and they have many friends in the community. The Semotiuk family had certainly enjoyed living in the Park Grove community for some 32 years and hope to continue doing so for at least another 32.

Shandro, Dr. W. A.

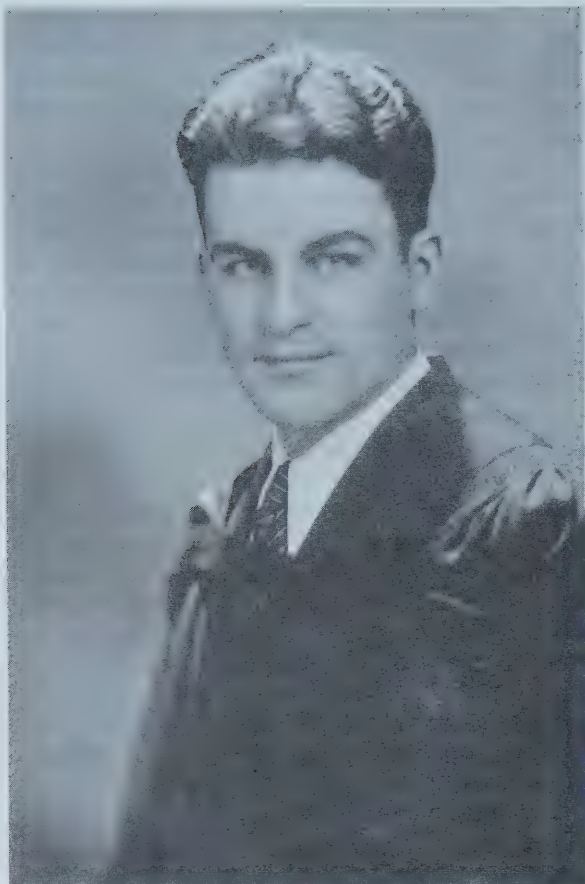
by Dr. W. A. Shandro

I was born on a homestead in Shandro, Alberta, some thirty-six miles due north of Vegreville, on January 9, 1908. The exact location was $\frac{1}{4}$ mile north of the present Shandro Church. I attended public school two and one-half miles away from the site where I was born. I attended high school in Edmonton. This was followed by attending Camrose Normal School in 1925.

Since I was the first-born of six, my parents insisted that I attend University and study whatever I wished. At a young age of eight I thought that I would like to eventually be a medical doctor. This was an inspiration which was conveyed by the late Dr. Lawford of Pakan. It was he who used to attend to us in the rural districts, by way of horse and buggy, or cutters, a distance of 25 miles. His presence and attention to the ailing was so reassuring and helpful. It did leave a lasting impression.

I spent four years at the University of Alberta and graduated from McGill University in 1933. I trained in Hamilton and Montreal and then spent six months at Little Long Lac in Northern Ontario. Finally, at the request of Dr. Yak and perhaps the persuasion of my parents in the West, I decided to return to a busy town that had adequate hospital facilities. In March, 1935, I joined Dr. Yak in partnership as a young general practitioner. I felt this was a great opportunity for me. For the first six months I had no means of transportation, apart from taxiing and walking. However, I did live in the Alberta Hotel at \$40.00 per month for room and board. The hospital was only a mile away. Within six months I was able to purchase my first automobile, a new four-door. Chevrolet sedan, for \$960.00. This was done by arranging a loan for more than half of it from my father.

Living in the hotel afforded me the opportunity of meeting many people from various walks of life. This was the spring of 1935 and the Social Credit Party triumph. No one that I had ever spoken to claimed



Dr. W. A. Shandro, 1933.

that he would vote Social Credit; however, the country was swept by Mr. Aberhart and, of course, the promise of \$25.00 a month for every man, woman, and child.

Being single, I was readily available for calls and was always on duty, while in town. Housecalls were numerous, but they were close by. There were very many people to attend, such as Jed Baldwin's father, who was a lawyer who had a very severe coronary attack, who was at that time living on top of Wener's Bakery, April 13, 1936. He survived and lived for many years after that.

I can recall a prepayment scheme that five municipalities subscribed to in 1936. The scheme collapsed in eighteen months. We were very busy and the demand was great. As an example of a payout: tonsillectomies were done for \$2.50 and anaesthetics for \$.50 per patient. After eighteen months the municipalities were unable to afford this plan and were six months in arrears. The plan was cancelled.

I was single and enjoyed the variety and volume of work. Everyone in the hospital was most cooperative. Dr. Yak and I referred any problems that were

too serious or required specialty care, to Edmonton. Occasionally, we procured the services of the late Dr. Archer from Lamont, who commanded a vast amount of experience.

After three years of solo living in Vegreville, devoted entirely to practicing medicine, obstetrics, surgery, etc., I decided to get married and then eventually to specialize in either General Surgery or Urology. I was married in June, 1938. At that time I left the Alberta Hotel and moved with my bride to Major Fane's rental house just a block east of the armories. The rent was \$25.00 per month. I shoveled coal into a furnace the first winter until Mr. Thorogood of North West Utilities persuaded us to convert to gas. By April 18, 1941, we had two daughters. I had my mind set for some leave to specialize in Urology. I was accepted at the Toronto General Hospital and I recall on December 7, 1941, the day of the Pearl Harbour incident, my wife and family were travelling through Indiana enroute to Toronto.

I spent the next two years in Urology and three years in the R.C.A.F. I settled in Edmonton, pursuing this specialty up to the present time. My experience and association with Dr. Yak, Dr. Reid, Dr. Couillard and Dr. Knowles in Vegreville, were most valuable in perpetuating further study and ultimate surgical pursuit. I have always been most grateful for the help and consideration which was afforded me by Dr. J. Yak and confreres, with whom I worked in Vegreville for six years.

Shavchook, P. M.

courtesy of the Vegreville Observer, Nov. 21, 1979

The death of P. M. Shavchook last month left a large void in the Vegreville community, particularly in Chamber of Commerce affairs where he filled a most energetic and enthusiastic role. Mr. Shavchook held the office of secretary-treasurer of that organization since 1973 and his accomplishments are very notable. He had planned to retire from the position only shortly before his death.

"P. M." was born on November 12, 1904 at Mundare and took all his schooling there. He completed Normal School training at Edmonton and later was a student for two years in the faculty of law at the University of Alberta. In 1922 he took up teaching at the Sich School and remained there until 1935. He then moved to the Hairy Hill School where he taught until 1942 and later accepted a position with the Two Hills School Division as secretary-treasurer which he held till 1963. During that year the Municipal District of Eagle and the Two Hills School Division amalgamated and Mr. Shavchook became assistant secretary

of the County of Two Hills. In 1972 he retired and moved to Vegreville.

His enthusiasm for community work in Two Hills followed him to Vegreville and he was not long a resident of this community before his services were enlisted, particularly in Chamber affairs.

During the course of his residence in Two Hills he was active in all sports, an interest he maintained though not as a participant, all his life. He was a curler, baseball fan and enjoyed golf. He was a Charter Member of the Two Hills Elks Lodge, a member of the Vegreville Elks, Rotary Club and was one of the driving forces during the building of the World famous "Pysanka", by the Vegreville Chamber.

He is survived by his loving wife Tillie.

Shaw, Charles Edward and Mary Elizabeth by Irene (Kennedy) Shaw

Charles Shaw, of Scottish parentage, together with his wife, the former Elizabeth Jago whose parents came from Cornwall, England, made their first move westward from Rockwood, Ontario in 1898, bringing with them three children, Winifred (6 years), Floyd (4 years), and Herbert (2 years).

Charles was a graduate in Pharmacy from Upper Canada College and established a drugstore in Boissevain, Manitoba. During their years there, Algie ("Buster") was born, also Marjorie and Helen.

Selling the Boissevain store, a second move took

them to Wapella, Saskatchewan, to purchase another. The two youngest members of the family, Elizabeth and Kathleen, were born there.

The urge to go still farther west led to their moving to Mundare where Mr. Shaw was in business for a year or so before coming to Vegreville in 1908 to purchase a drugstore from Doctor Field and Monkman where he continued in business until 1932. Floyd's recollection of that move is very clear as he recalls how he and Herb walked all the way to bring their three cows — a long walk for two kids 10 and 12 years old.

With the building of the Grand Trunk Railway (now the main line of the CNR) the village of Viking and other small towns sprang up. Charles Shaw built a drugstore in Viking and for a few years the firm was known as the V & V Drug Company (Vegreville and Viking).

Mr. Shaw served a year as President of the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association.

Winifred Shaw became a telephone operator until after the local servicemen returned from overseas when she married Tennar Morton.

Floyd was a member of the first class in the Vermilion School of Agriculture in 1913, but, returning for the fall session in 1914, he remained only long enough to reach his 18th birthday in order to enlist in the 3rd CMR's under Major F.W.W. Fane and proceed overseas. His active service in two theatres of war, France and North Russia, kept him away from home until the fall of 1919. In Dr. Hardin's "History of Vegreville", a letter from Floyd describes the bombardment in which he witnessed the death of Doctor Monkman and several of his friends.

In 1923, he married Irene Kennedy. The next seventeen years were spent in farming, during which time he was active in the Agricultural Society and in the late 1920's served as Wheat Pool Delegate for this area.

Herbert Shaw, who left High School in 1916 to enlist in the 151st Battalion, suffered injury from gas warfare which ultimately contributed to his death in 1921.

Marjorie Shaw (Mrs. John Leach) and Helen (Mrs. John Jennings) both taught school before their marriages. Elizabeth became a certified nursing aid and is now retired. Kathleen was a clerk and bookkeeper before her marriage to Wallace Kennedy.

Though Charles Shaw was never a farmer, he always felt an urge toward farming. The farm he bought in the Park Grove District became the family



Carol and Gordon Shaw going to school, 1939.



Lady Skips — Heather Curling Club, 1914-1915. (l. to r.) — I. D. Worth, J. T. Morrison, C. E. Shaw, M. A. Worth, H. Beatty, A. W. Fraser.

home at certain intervals, alternating with their home in town. The family look back on the years they attended Park Grove School as among the happiest of their school years.

“Buster” ran the Park Grove farm during the First World War, then went to Brandon College. After graduation, he became a bookkeeper in Barkley’s Garage, but eventually went into business with Merl Thomas. When the latter retired, Buster continued to operate the Thomas Garage until it was purchased by Raydon Motors. After his death in 1974, his wife, the former Marge Fraser, moved to Sidney, B.C. where her vocal and artistic talents keep her active in the “Silver Threads”, a Senior Citizens Group.

Charles Shaw passed away in 1943, his wife in 1950. Their living descendants, at time of writing, number 59. (See photo p. 593.)

Shaw, Floyd and Irene **by Irene (Kennedy) Shaw**

The marriage of Floyd Shaw and Irene Kennedy in 1923 united two pioneer families, Floyd being the oldest son of Charles E. Shaw, and Irene the daughter

of David A. Kennedy whose histories have been recorded.

In close-knit communities such as prevailed in the 1920’s, it was not unusual for young people to choose their mates from among their family friends. Floyd Shaw and Harold Kennedy were boyhood chums and had gone overseas together. I, Irene Kennedy, and Bertha Jennings had been close friends throughout High School and Normal School days, so it seemed in the natural order of things that Harold and Bertha should be married. A few years later, Helen Shaw married John (“Buster”) Jennings and later Kathleen (“Bunny”) Shaw became the bride of Wallace Kennedy, thus four marriages within three families, a fact which has confused many newcomers — meaning anyone coming here since the 1930’s!

Perhaps this explanation will only result in “confusion worse confounded”, but to the people involved it seems quite simple.

Farming appealed to returning servicemen as a quiet, peaceful occupation after the horrors of war, and the benefits of the Soldier Settlement Board sounded attractive. Not all our plans materialized on our farm three miles west of Vegreville. Many of our dreams faded; not all the crops turned out well and the depression ground us down, but the farm was an ideal place to raise children. We were always warm and well-fed, so we survived and were happy. No family allowances in those days, no school buses, and roads varied from fair to bad. Ryan School was two and one-half miles away but our first-born, Carol, often walked in good weather and, when Gordon started, new neighbors across the road had children able to take care of the horse, and all travelled together. In later years, they rode horseback.

We were fortunate indeed in having excellent teachers, among them being Miss Harriet Appleby, Miss Nadia Svarich, Miss Mona Casson and Miss Hilda Knies. The latter two were enthusiastic competitors in the Muscial Festival and their pupils were often prize winners.

The Alida Community Hall, built by volunteer labor, became the social center for numerous activities, dances and Christmas parties where babies slept on benches, the tots played games, children from each of three school districts provided lively programs. Bridge games were played by some of the the seniors and almost everyone danced. The lunches were always super and coffee from a copper boiler, with plenty of country cream, fortified us for the cold ride home. The Alida W.I. filled the need of the neighborhood women to get together for sociability and quilting. After World War II broke out, they



Floyd Shaw, ready for the Royal Visit, August 2, 1978.

devoted much of their energies to Red Cross work and built up a fine record of service.

The decision to leave the farm and move to town was influenced by Floyd's determination to rejoin the Army which he accomplished in 1942 when he became a drill officer at the Camrose Training Centre,



Floyd and Irene Shaw, 1946.

later transferring to the Experimental Station at Suffield as Transport Officer, where he remained until after the war. He thus completed eight years of his life in the active Army.

During his absence I took a commercial course and worked half-days in the School Division office for several years.

Carol fulfilled her childhood ambition by graduating from Vancouver General Hospital. Her husband, Vern Miller, is western sales manager of Terry

Industries. After a sojourn of seven years in Montreal, they have recently returned to North Vancouver where Carol has resumed her nursing career.

Their oldest son, Greg, a graduate of Simon Fraser University, is teaching in an Indian Composite High School. Their only daughter, Beth, works in telecommunications in Montreal, and their two youngest sons, Graham and Gordon, are finishing high school.

Gordon Shaw, after high school, worked three years in the Bank of Montreal, then went into Imperial Oil. He is presently working in New York City for the Exxon Corporation. His wife, the former Mary-Jane Makar, is a graduate in Journalism from the University of Western Ontario, a former editor, and the mother of three boys — Graham, Trevor and Gavin. Graham hopes to return to Alberta in 1980 to attend university.

Floyd and I, in our retirement years, have tried to keep active by travelling and by our continued interest in our church and community. Floyd is a former member of the Session of the United Church, a former president of the Canadian Legion, a past master of St. John's Lodge, A. F and A. M., in all of which he holds Life Memberships. His keen interest in curling and golf have been curtailed by ill health which has hospitalized him for some time.

I still keep active contact with U.C.W., I.O.D.E., and Eastern Star, all of which have honored me with Life Memberships.

Our circle of friends may be dwindling but we are still truly blessed by a number of friends whom we treasure dearly. (See photos p. 594 and 811.)

Pioneer Threshing Time

Threshing time was the highlight of the farm years, though fraught with many uncertainties. Pity the poor housewife who stocked up on extra meat and groceries, did prodigious quantities of baking and had her plans delayed by rain or snow at inopportune times. No fridge or freezer to preserve the perishables, and often when the weather seemed favorable it could turn bad again overnight, resulting in another long wait.

Stook threshing and steam outfits required bundle teams, spike pitchers, field pitchers, a water man, an engineer, etc., and woe betide the crew that failed to maintain a steady, even flow of bundles into the hungry maw of the separator. A crew of up to eighteen men was not unusual and the food they consumed required the housewife's best efforts. At last it was over and when the last bundle rack clattered out of the gate, peace reigned.

When the kerosene lamps were lighted, the catalogue would be lifted from the shelf and eagerly

perused. Now it would be Eaton's turn to reap a harvest!

Shewchuk, George and Anna **by Helen (Shewchuk) Melnychuk**

Both George and Anna Shewchuk were born in the village of Borivtsi, Province of Bukovina, Western Ukraine, then occupied by Austria and now the Soviet Union.

In 1903 when George was seventeen years of age he came to Canada with his parents and two younger brothers and two younger sisters. They left their village and homeland July 13, 1903, and did not arrive at their destination until two and one-half months later. Their first delay was at the port of Hamburg, Germany, waiting for their ship *Albania* to be loaded with merchandise and passengers. At sea there were more delays, one due to a fierce storm and the other due to a heavy fog off Newfoundland. Further delays occurred at Toronto, Winnipeg, and Edmonton, and when the family finally reached George's Uncle Steve Shewchuk's home at Whitford, Alberta, it was September 27, 1903.

There was a light snow on the ground then and it was too late to look for homesteads and build a shelter, so the two families, numbering a total of sixteen, were forced to spend the winter together in a small two-room log home. The two fathers, Steve and Petro, spent the winter cutting logs for homes and the two oldest boys, George and his cousin, supplied the families with rabbits and prairie chickens, their main food staple.

George, being single and one of the few that could read and write, became the letter writer and carrier for the neighbourhood. He walked many a mile to the store and post office at Whitford and Edna, posting letters and bringing back meagre supplies and tobacco.

In the spring of 1904, George, his father Petro, and the rest of the family moved to their homesteads, east of present Willingdon, Alberta. Relatives and

neighbours had helped the family put up a few buildings and a few acres of land were also broken.

Having accomplished this much, in order to earn some money to buy a couple of horses and some machinery, in 1905 George left the family and went out in search of work. His first job was on the extra gang on the Crow's Nest Line between Lethbridge and Ford MacLeod where he earned \$1.45 a day.

The next two years he worked at a sawmill at Fernie, B.C. Because he could read and write and was good at figures, he had a good job and was getting better pay. For the next two or three years after spring work he worked on the Grand Trunk Line with the surveying engineers laying out and cutting the right-of-way for the oncoming railway to be built from Edson to Jasper.

With the money he had earned through the years, he bought a pair of horses for \$200.00 (wild horses were cheaper but difficult to train), a cow for \$35.00, a walking plow for \$20.00, a hay mower and a rake for \$110.00, a wagon for \$70.00. Now he was an established farmer and ready to get married.

On August 11, 1912, George married Anna Sem-baliuk who came to Canada in 1902 with her parents and brother John, and also lived in the present Willingdon district. She was one of the first students in the newly-built Soda Lake School erected about 1906. Anna and a Mihalcheon girl were the only two students who could not speak English, and the only thing the two girls had in common was to hold hands and cry as one was Ukrainian and the other Romanian, and they could not even understand each other's language.

George and Anna prospered well. In 1914, with the knowledge he acquired in operating machinery at the sawmill, George was confident enough to buy a Sawyer — Massey steam threshing outfit in partnership with his good friend Mike Shymko.

George loved music and formed an orchestra with his younger brothers and played at many dances and weddings in the district and surrounding area. In 1919 he had a serious case of the Spanish flu which affected his hearing and in a few years' time he had to give up his music.

In 1927 he sold his property near Willingdon and bought a farm on the northern outskirts of Vegreville, Alberta (N.W. 20-52-14) and after putting up some buildings, moved the family there, in July of 1928.

George was active in the community and helped with the building of the Borivtsi Church near Willingdon, Alberta, where he had earlier belonged. He was also a contributor to the Ukrainian Greek Orthodox Church and an active member of the parish until his late years.

George and Anna had five children: two daugh-



George and Anna Shewchuk on their 65th wedding anniversary, August 11, 1977.

ters, Helen and Mary, and three sons, Daniel, Myron and Marko. August 11, 1977, was the family's reunion day when all the relatives and friends gathered on the family farm to celebrate George and Anna's 65th wedding anniversary. Anna, George's wife, died on September 26, 1978 and their son Daniel died on December 13, 1978.

George Shewchuk is 93 years old now and attributes his long life to hard work and sound sleep — he never took his worries to bed with him. He relaxed by reading and loved to boast that he read more books than any two average people put together. At 93 he can still read without glasses. Only recently was he admitted to the Minburn Auxiliary Hospital where he is still enjoying fair health.

Shultz, Mike and Vera

George Dayton (Mike) Shultz was born in Didsbury, Alberta on May 4, 1907, the second of five children born to George and Bertha Shultz. They were new arrivals from Mirind City, Missouri, U.S.A. on their way to Delia, Alberta. Mike was a farmer at heart and took up farming in the Vegreville area where he met his future wife Vera Wilma Morrill.

Vera was born May 4, 1914 in Arma, Kansas, U.S.A. and came to Alberta when she was four years old. Vera's Dad was in the area building roads when the two met. They were married on February 11, 1933. They had a family of three girls — Ethel Lorraine, Darlene Mae and Shirley Wilma.

During the winter months for the first few years Mike worked as a boiler man in the coal branch area at the mine Robb 55. This mine flooded in 1942 and was never re-opened.

In the spring of 1945 the family moved to the Mark Kitto farm in the Park Grove District, where they lived until Mike's death on August 15, 1958. During this time Mike and Vera both took an active part in community affairs, F.U.A., F.W.U.A. and Farm Forum to mention a few. The girls went to Park Grove School until its closing.

Mike became ill in the winter of 1957 and with the generous help of neighbors managed to plant his crops and have them taken off in the fall. On the occasion of Mike and Vera's 25th Wedding Anniversary on February 11, 1958 the neighbors planned a surprise party for them. It began with a supper at the George Ziegler home with Mike's sister Mary and her husband from Ryley attending. After supper we all went to the community centre for an evening of visiting. Due to Mike's illness there were no-smoking signs displayed on the blackboards and everyone was good enough to do just that. Mike and Vera were presented with a lazy boy rocker on behalf of all their

friends. Mike was so taken back that he had a problem making an acceptance speech.

After Mike's death Vera moved into Vegreville where she bought a home and accepted a position with Alberta Government Telephones as a Commercial Clerk. She was transferred to Edmonton in 1964 and was the Northern District Representative until the time of her death in June of 1973. Both Mike and Vera were laid to rest in the Old Rugged Cross Section, Evergreen Memorial Gardens at Edmonton.

Ethel married Lowell Gorsline, son of Earl and Florence Gorsline of Vegreville, on October 31, 1953. They had one son Dayton. They lived in several towns in the southern part of Alberta as Lowell was a driller for Commonwealth Drilling. After a rig accident, Lowell went to work at the P. V. Ranch at Evansburg. Lowell was killed in an accident in November of 1976. Dayton and his step-mother Carol operate a riding stable near Ardrossan.

Ethel remarried in 1972 to Lawrence Sharkey and they reside on a farm near Sundre.

Shirley married Leslie Fedechko, son of Joe and Jean Fedechko of Vegreville, in April of 1960. They have two daughters — Leeann and Cindy. Leslie was a T.V. Technician and Shirley a telephone operator. They moved to Edmonton shortly after where they still reside. Les works for Chicago Nuclear and Shirley is employed at Scott National.

Darlene married Frank Fraser who came from Ontario and was working for Canadian Utilities in Vegreville. They have one daughter, Charlene and two sons, Bryan and Robert. In 1971 Frank was transferred to High Level with the company and then in 1976 transferred to Fox Creek where they still reside. Charlene now resides in Edmonton where she is a computer operator and the boys are still in school. Darlene works at the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce as the accountant.

Shyslak, Damien

My First Christmas In Canada

by Damien Shyslak, December/73 — courtesy of Vegreville Observer.

My parents left the old country, known today as West Ukraine, but at that time a part of Austria and specifically the Province of Galicia, County of Peremyshel, Village Butzow and the Post Office Medyka. Now, as I put down the geographical description, I am sure your readers would like to know the date of this event. The date recorded by my father was May 27, 1902.

There were five of us, Mom and Dad, my two sisters and myself. On the date of our departure the whole village turned out to wish us good luck on our voyage and for the future.



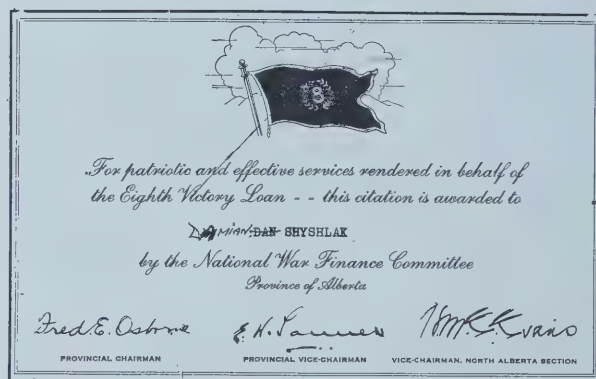
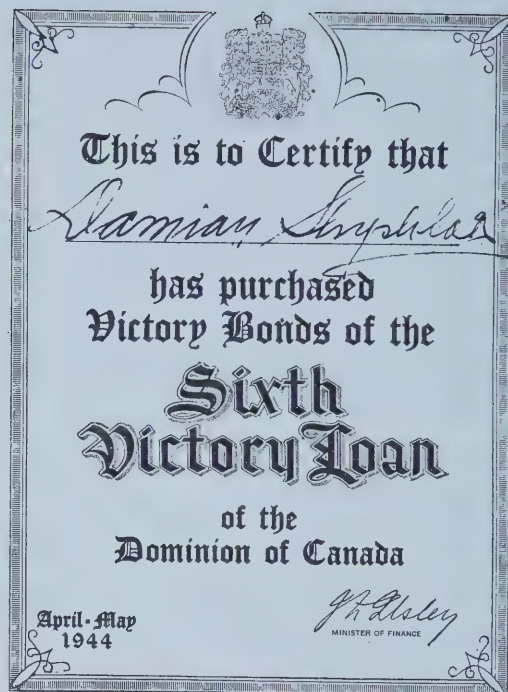
Damian Shyshlak, Life Member R.C.L., Vegreville Branch #39. World War I, 1917.

At the time I was seven years old and had just started school. We left the same month as I started, and I remember my Grandmother who wept as she begged me to write a letter to her. I am sorry to say that I did not ever get around to writing the letter because although I could read some, writing was beyond my ability at that age.

We arrived in Edmonton on June 27, 1902, where my father met some people who had come from the same part of the Ukraine as we did, a year earlier. They took us to the Immigration Hall where we stayed for the first week. At that time Alberta had not yet been formed as a province and the area was a part of the Northwest Territories.

At this time I would like to insert the names of other countrymen who, along with my father, settled that part of the country east of Warwick, Alberta. No doubt their descendants will be reading this narrative and will find their fathers' and grandfathers' names mentioned.

The original site of Warwick was three miles east of the present one in the Fairwood School District. It was named by a fellow named Warwick who had settled to the west of the community. He did not stay



1944.

in the district long. The first Postmaster at Warwick was an American, Robert Woods, and the names of the first settlers were: Fairbairn, Mahaffey, Forbes, White, Wynn-McKenzie, Hogman, Smith, Facey, Coleman, Anderson, Larson, McFarland and Dill. I don't remember their first names. To the east of Warwick were mostly Ukrainian and Polish settlers: Bachynski, Kitz, Orfino, Kisilevich, Sawchuk, Najdziak, Tomsha, Shchurek, Chase and Berlinguette.

My father had three acres of land in the old country and when he heard that for a \$10 fee he could obtain 160 acres, he decided immediately that he should go farming where several of his countrymen had settled. The people already in the district called the area "Farmilia" (Vermilion River), Township 53

and 54, Range 13 and 14, west of the 4th Meridian. He wanted land with lots of trees on it and a lake. Mr. Najdziak, who was going to take us to his farm, told dad there was a quarter of land right beside his land that he would like. After being told what to buy for the journey to the farm, we loaded our possessions on the wagon. Our load was not heavy as most of our baggage had not yet arrived. The most essential piece of equipment was mosquito netting. The mosquitoes would eat you alive without protection of a net or smudge to keep them away. Our teamster had a smudge pail hung up on the wagon tongue all the time to protect the team.

At one place on the trail a German family by the name of Adam Berg had us stop for a short while during which time Mrs. Berg persuaded my mother to allow my older sister Annie to stay with them for \$3.00 a month. There was lots of weeping by all parties.

Mrs. Berg was most grateful to receive help and she gave my mother a big bag full of rhubarb seeds. When we reached our destination, my Mom tried to prepare a meal for us by putting the seeds in a pot, adding salt and some potatoes, and kept it boiling for at least two hours. It tasted good, but we didn't eat it! Maybe someone would like to try it — if so I will gladly give them the recipe.

We arrived at our destination all right, and after a couple of days' rest, Mr. Najdziak and Dad went to look over the farm, which dad found to his liking. There was a lake, some bush with high trees and a high hill too. On this high hill my dad put up a cross in gratitude for the safe journey to his free country. It is a very nice spot, abundant with wild flowers in spring and summer. There is one kind which thrives only there and it resembles the red poppy with a very strong poppy scent. There are also two graves one of which belongs to our neighbor's brother, Anton Havirko, who came here in 1903. He was in ill health and enjoyed sitting by this cross to rest. The other grave is the neighbor's nephew, a baby boy.

As for the rest of this farm the land was never broke. There were many rocks level with the ground and the lake was alkali. On Good Friday in 1903, a big prairie fire with strong winds destroyed the big trees. We were lucky it passed our house which stood on the north side of the lake.

I read a lot about the adventurers and explorers who travelled West describing the country in glowing terms. They were enchanted with it and always returned like migrating birds.

In our travels we had to make numerous detours because of the sloughs, creeks, lakes and bushes but the scenery was beautiful. There were acres of prairie lilies and all kinds of flowers which one cannot find

now. Now we have different kinds of flowers, namely stinkweed, Russian thistle, Canadian thistle, Pigweed and many others.

In the summer of 1902, Dad built a two-room log house with a thatched roof but used only one room because the other was reserved for a cow. I had to help carry logs for the house and, consequently, lifting those green logs made me sick for the whole winter.

One Sunday in November (1902) my dad told me, "We must go out and buy a cow to have milk for the coming winter." Until this time we were getting milk from Mr. Najdziak and from Mr. John Hryciw four miles away. I made the trip twice a week and the milk was free.

About four and a half miles northwest from our farm there lived a man by the name of Berlinguette and we were going to buy a cow from him. It was a beautiful day. Meadowlarks still in the country, pure scented air all around us and (let me add) at that time there were no crows or magpies to destroy young game birds. When we came to his house, he was sitting on a bench beside the house with a prayer book on his knees. Father used sign language mixed with German which he knew fairly well to communicate with him. At last when they seemed to understand each other, the Frenchman pointed at the missal with the sign of the cross on the covers, then at the skies and sun, altogether meaning that we would not dare to do business on the Lord's day (Sunday), but if Dad came next day he would sell him a cow for \$30. Yes! Ironically that was just exactly all the money father had in this world.

The next day we got the cow; she turned out to be a great milker (3 cups per day!) But there was one consolation — father made a harness and used the cow as a draft horse to haul wood, logs and hay. In the spring of 1903, we got about two acres of new breaking done by Mr. John Hryciw and dad seeded it into wheat by hand. I had to harrow this field using the cow to pull two home-made harrows. This was all the cultivation done on that field, but we threshed over 100 bushels with a flail in the fall.

The autumn of 1902 was fairly warm and dry with the first snowfall the beginning of December. I used to stay outside with my sister (age five) late into the night watching the northern lights. This "aurora borealis" was awesome to watch; on some nights we could see multicolored castles with high domes and colored windows, on the others as if the heaven would open its gates and a parade of Saints took place. We also heard crackling noises too. I have never seen such displays since 1910.

In the winter of 1902-03 we had no storms or high winds although there was a lot of snow and cold

weather. When it turned warm it stayed warm with no sudden changes as we seem to find now. The first snowfall of about three feet fell about the 12th of December.

Then came Christmas Eve and my parents were busy from early morning getting things ready. My Mother was worrying about preparing the traditional supper of twelve dishes because we were desperately short of provisions. She ended up setting a nice table, not forgetting the clove of garlic which was to guard us against ill health. Dad lit the candle which was a string inserted in tallow, and we all sat around the table which was a large chest from the old country. The custom was to have some straw spread on the floor and a big sheaf of straw to represent something like Santa Claus but we called it "Deduch". We also had an axe which was placed at the door to stop evil spirits from entering. After supper Dad said a short prayer, ending it with the usual greeting "Christ is Born". They ended the evening talking about the old country, relatives, and planning the future, also mentioning my older sister who was still away. During all this time my sister and I huddled in the straw on the floor whispering to each other so as not to disturb them.

Poem

by Dan Shyshlak

Lonely howl of the coyotes
I remember, and a prairie fire sweeping through.
It burned all the grass
Neat as a pin.
There was not a fence in the world we knew,
But the West and its people were honest and true.
And the range stretched away with a sky for a lid —
I am old — but I'm glad that I lived when I did!

Skrypitsky, John and Mary

John Skrypitsky was born in 1901 somewhere in Quebec or Ontario on the crowded immigration train in which his parents were travelling to the Golden West. They settled in the vicinity of Mundare, Alberta, and homesteaded in the Beaver Lake district. Young John learned his farming the hard way; he went no further than grade five because he could not be spared from the land. The knowledge that was to lead to success did not come from books but from the fight for survival in the dry and depression years and back-breaking toil of eighteen hours a day.

When the Alberta Department of Agriculture announced its Master Farm Family awards in 1952, Skrypitsky's name was one of the five selected out of 90,000 farmers in the province. In the opinion of the regional and provincial committees who "evaluated eighty-seven factors related to farm operations, farm

life, community work and business management" the Skrypitskys had provided a practical demonstration of how a family can achieve success in farming and live with others in the community. Just as important to John Skrypitsky as the committees' opinion was the fact that the nomination for the award came from his neighbors. He says simply: "It is an honor money couldn't buy".

In 1952 the Skrypitsky farm consisted of 640 acres of sandy loam soil near Mundare. It produced bumper yields of wheat, oats and barley. Part of the crop was sold as commercial seed. John had forty head of fine Hereford cattle and sixty Yorkshire hogs. His farm and the farm buildings, garage, machine shop and the modern two-storey house he built in 1949 were a treat to the eye. His tree planting program, begun in 1933 as a shelterbelt, resulted in the whole farmstead being surrounded with a wind-break consisting of jack pine, maple, ash, poplar, spruce, and cedar. Pine, snowball and lilacs surrounded the house. Every spring he planted one thousand trees or more.

John's constant efforts to improve his property were important factors in his winning the Master Farm Family award. The prize of \$1,000 cash gave some substance to the honor. With it he immediately bought two purebred Herefords, which he presented to his sons, Walter and Archie.

Soon after the receipt of this award, John was offered \$52,000 for his farm but he turned it down without a moment's hesitation. It seemed a far cry from 1929, when he acquired forty of his present six hundred and forty acres with a down payment of



John Skrypitsky Master Farm Family, 1952. Children (l. to r.) — Vicky, Archie, Walter, Zonia. In front — John and Mary, with daughter Mary-Jane.

\$1,000 borrowed from his sister's husband. All he had then was a two-room house, a partially-finished barn, three cows, a light delivery truck, and \$6,000 in debts.

John Skrypitsky was married in 1929 to Mary Bilyk, daughter of a neighboring farmer, who came to Canada from the Ukraine in 1921 when she was eleven, and lived first in a tent. She always dreamed of a home of her own and twenty years after her marriage it all came true.

Most of the twenty years were hard for Mary. While John worked his own and rented land from dawn till dusk, she got up at four o'clock in the morning to prepare his meals, milk the cows, feed the chickens, bake the bread, separate the milk and do many other household and farmstead chores. In addition, she bore John five children, who, as they grew, transformed John and Mary's partnership into a well co-ordinated team.

The Skrypitskys have five children - two sons and three daughters, and ten grandchildren.

Vicky, the oldest, is married. The couple was blessed with two children: the son is in University and the daughter is married. All live in Edmonton.

Walter is single and keeps busy in different business endeavors.

Zonia is married. To their union were born three children: one son is in college, and one son and one daughter are in school. They live in Ponoka.

Archie is married. The couple has three children: one son is in University, and one son and one daughter are in school. They reside at Lac La Biche.

Mary-Jane is married. The couple has two children: a son and a daughter in school. Their residence is Grande Prairie.

Musically inclined, the Skrypitsky children can play a number of musical instruments. Vicky and Zonia won top honours for singing in school festivals.

John and Mary Skrypitsky had never travelled outside of the Province of Alberta. John's lifetime of effort had been concentrated in building up his farm, "buying a little, paying it off, then buying a little more". He said: "Any money we have made is because we have worked overtime perhaps more than we should have, but if we had worked only eight hours a day the farm would be nowhere".

John's attitude was the result of single-mindedness without fanaticism. He was the unmistakable head of the household whose word, in the old country style, is law; but he was a benevolent head. He had earned the respect of his neighbors and was popular with them, as the number of cars parked in their yard on a Sunday would indicate.

He was very active in community organizations. He was an official in the Mundare local of the United Grain Growers, the F.U.A. and the Hereford Breeders' Association. He was also president of the



John Skrypitsky Master Farm farmstead, 1952.

Mundare Seed Cleaning Association, director of the co-op store, member of the district school board, and of the Elks Club.

Mr. and Mrs. Skrypitsky were members of the Ukrainian Catholic Church at Mundare and Mrs. Skrypitsky was a member of the Ukrainian Catholic Women's League. They had retired and moved to Vegreville where they built a beautiful home, hoping to enjoy the fruits of their long and hard work. But fate decreed otherwise.

Mr. Skrypitsky passed away suddenly on September 6, 1970. Mrs. Skrypitsky continues to reside in Vegreville, and enjoys the many visits from her children and grandchildren.

Slorach, George

George Slorach was born August 13, 1876, in Guelph, Ontario. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Slorach, emigrated to Canada in 1855 from Scotland. George married Elizabeth Annie Ash who was born June 22, 1879, in Hamilton, Ontario. They moved to Vegreville in the spring of 1916 with their one son, William Robert and one daughter, Mary Ann. George had a livery stable and then a dray service in town until he died August 28, 1934. His wife died January 24, 1951.

Mary married Charlie Ozast, who owned a shoe and harness shop in town, but later moved to Trail, B.C.

William took over the dray service and married Anna Katy Jensen, who was born June 24, 1905, in Redwood, Minnesota. Her parents, Christian Marten and Karen Sophia, emigrated to U.S.A. from Denmark in 1896. In 1914 the Jensens moved to Kelvington, Sask. where they set up a homestead. Anna arrived in Vegreville in 1924 where she spent the rest of her life until March 12, 1970. Anna was an active member of Red Cross, Women's Institute and Ladies' Aid. Bill and Anna Slorach had three daughters: Myrtle May, who married Steve Sen and is now residing in Aldergrove, B.C.; Gladys June, who married Carl Carstensen, and is now residing in

Abbotsford, B.C.; Irene Adeline, who married Ernest Malarski, and still resides in Vegreville.

William at this time is enjoying retirement in good health.

Smiley, Frederick and Ruth by Ruth (Erickson) Smiley

Frederick David Smiley is the eldest son of Orion and Alice Smiley. He was born at Bashaw and came to the Lavoy district with his parents when he was a small boy. They settled a mile-and-a-half north of Lavoy on the west half of section 9-52-13-4. Fred and his four brothers and one sister grew up here. His parents, with the help of the family, had a mixed-farming operation.

The Smiley children attended the Lavoy School and received their initial education there. Mr. and Mrs. Smiley were devout people who took their children to the Lavoy Baptist Church to Sunday School and worship service.

Fred took up farming on his own in Dewberry in 1937. The next year he moved to the Ranfurly district where he rented land from Seymour Inglis. One of the neighbours he used to visit was the Erickson family. Their daughter, Ruth, became his wife in the fall of 1940. The Erickson family had settled at Ranfurly in 1920. Three of their four children were born there. The children attended school at Ranfurly and the family were members of the United Church.

Fred and Ruth rented the Rudolph Karrer farm north of Lavoy and lived there for the next few years. Their first two sons, Wayne and David, were born during this time. Fred was a dedicated horseman and used eight-and-ten-horse outfits for farming operations.

He kept good horses and enjoyed a good horse trade. He built up a good herd of purebred Percherons and had a start in purebred Shorthorn cattle. They also kept hogs, chickens, turkeys, dogs and cats.

In the spring of 1945, they bought the Burkholder farm two miles east of Lavoy. The next year the adjoining quarter to the north was purchased from Seth Briggs. As the years went by and more land was acquired, a tractor became a necessity — mechanized farming was here to stay. The herd of work horses was sold. The beef herd gave way to a large dairy herd. A loafing barn and milking parlour was built to house this operation.

In the forties and early fifties, a daughter Heather and three more sons, Stuart, Albert and Robin were born. The two oldest children, Wayne and David, started school at Nuttborough, riding horseback three miles. In 1954 the school bus route went by the farm and the children then transferred to the Lavoy School. With a growing family the old house was



William Robert Slorach, with the team used for many years for his draying business, 1934.

bursting at its seams. This old house had originally been a real estate office in Lavoy. The Smileys built a warm and comfortable bungalow in 1962. During these years Fred and Ruth were busy taking part in church, school and community affairs. The children were active in various 4-H programs.

As livestock prices became better the dairy herd was sold and a successful Charolais beef herd was built up.

Fred and Ruth, with the help of their family, had a tree-planting program that became a valuable part of the farm. Several miles of trees were planted along the roadside between the fields and around the farm buildings. The trees provided a place for birds and small animals, helped control erosion, helped conserve moisture as well as adding beauty to the landscape.

As time passed, the children grew up and entered into various occupations.

Wayne lives at Fort Saskatchewan and is employed at Diamond Shamrock.

David married Janet Zuk of Mundare in 1969 and took up farming; they now have two daughters.

Heather is married to Howard Ashton and they live in Vancouver.

Stuart is married to Stephanie Sikorski from Ardmore. They have a daughter and son. They live at Fort Saskatchewan and Stuart is employed by Dow Chemical.

Albert lives at Lytton, B.C., and is operating a bulk fuel station.

Robin lives in Edmonton and is parts-manager for McCoy Bros. at Scona Trailer Manufacturing.

In 1974 Fred and Ruth sold the home farm to son David, and Janet, and moved to Vegreville where they bought a home. The Charolais herd was sold at this time. Because Fred is in good health and still enjoys farming, he kept a quarter of land and along with some he rented, he still keeps busy farming in the summer.

During the winter months Fred and Ruth have travelled. They have had much pleasure visiting other places and meeting new people. They look forward to many more years of travelling and happy, healthful living.

Smiley, Orion and Alice **by Mrs. L. L. Smiley**

Orion Theodore Smiley, "O.T." to all who knew him, was born October 29, 1878, in Kellogg, Iowa, Jasper County, and was the 4th generation from Ireland, whose ancestors emigrated to Pennsylvania in 1806. Orion was the youngest of five children, and when he was three years old he had a bad case of pneumonia and was not expected to live. However, he

overcame that problem but for the rest of his life he had to be careful with his lungs. He farmed in the Woodbine, Iowa area before coming to Alberta, where he bought some land in 1906 in the Bashaw area. However, he didn't stay but went back to the U.S. due to his mother's illness. On February 9, 1909, he once again landed in Alberta, in Alix. He bought a sled in Lacombe to haul furniture and equipment, plus horses, and went to a half-section he had bought near Bashaw. Helped by neighbor, Bob Johnson, who had also come to Alberta from Iowa, and Mr. Donaldson, they returned several times to Alix before all his possessions were moved. He built a small house and barn the summer of 1909 and that fall bought the Hopkins farm, four miles north, after borrowing the money from his father.

A school teacher, Miss Alice Toles, who had moved to the area from Mt. Bridges, Ont. in 1908, had been boarding with the Hopkins and teaching the Schultz School, and thus O.T. met his future wife. They were married on February 9, 1910, and while living at Bashaw, Fred, Ken and Howard were born. Through the years at Lavoy, Elva, Glenn and Lawrence were added to the family. When O.T. moved to the Hopkins place, there were twenty-five acres broken, a barn and an unfinished house but by 1915 there were 120 acres broken. While at Bashaw, O.T. was Secretary-Treasurer of the U.F.A., and was instrumental in organizing an Alberta Co-operative Elevator Co. there, a difficult undertaking.

In March of 1916 the family pulled up stakes and moved north to Lavoy, along with twenty-three cows and heifers and eight horses, to a farm with no buildings or broken land. They lived in a ten by sixteen granary built in a hurry until the familiar yellow house, still in use today, was built, under



O. T. Smiley family at Bashaw, 1915.



O. T. Smiley family, 1928.



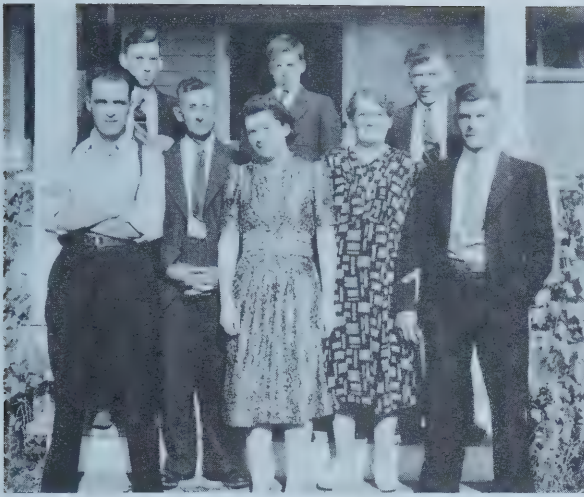
O. T. Smiley's Titan tractor stuck while breaking land, 1918.

contract to Robert and Johnson Patterson of Lavoy, for \$1,500.00. That year O.T. rented thirty-five acres across the road, but broke thirty-five acres on his farm in 1916 and forty acres in 1917. He eventually bought the complete section, 9-52-13-W4, on which Sickman Hill is located, being geographically the highest point between Edmonton and Winnipeg. Known in Cree as "Akasu", this hill was the scene of a severe outbreak of an illness in approximately 1885 that took a lot of Indian lives and therefore it was known as "Sickman Hill".

After much looking around in 1918, O.T. decided to buy a 10-20 Titan tractor, a wooden beam 20-in. breaking plow, a three-bottom 14-in. Lacrosse plow and a 22-in. Sawyer-Massey threshing machine. With his tractor he broke over 250 acres more, but the 90 acres broken in 1919 paid for the seed, expenses, and all the machinery, even though there was a frost on July 23. That year O.T. also bought a Ford touring car, that identically matched that of the Manager of The Royal Bank of Canada in Lavoy, Dave Mackie, so by mistake O.T. drove it home one time, as the keys were the same also. Other equipment bought included a John Deere heavy wagon with grain tank, Van Brunt 24 x 6 grain drill, 20 ft. of peg harrows and a harrow riding cart, and a 3 x 14 John Deere tractor plow with a horse hitch. In 1927 O.T. bought a 15-30 McCormick tractor and later a 28-in. Waterloo Thresher with which he did a lot of threshing in the north Lavoy area.

In 1929 O.T., his wife and their three youngest children loaded up the 1928 Pontiac and headed East for Ontario, a brave venture by car for that time. It took them a week to travel each way, and the rest of the time away from the farm they visited his wife's mother, sisters and brothers residing in the Woodstock, Melbourne, Mt. Bridges, Ontario areas and Ypsilanti, Michigan. O.T. was out of debt that year and had certificates for thousands of bushels of wheat, exactly five railroad carloads, at the Alberta Wheat Pool, who paid an advance of 10¢ per bushel; so in early 1930 he borrowed \$3,500.00 from The Royal Bank of Canada in Vegreville against these certificates to build the big red, hip-roofed barn, with the help of Dave Valentine and John Bowman. The complete hail-out that fall plus the ensuing dry years left this relatively small debt, even in those days, unpaid until 1942. O.T. owed the \$3,500.00, plus the storage on the wheat and never got any more from the Wheat Pool other than the original 10¢ a bushel when he hauled it in, which left him financially embarrassed for many years. During the dirty 30's money was so scarce that their car was not licensed in 1933 and 1934.

In 1939 Mr. and Mrs. Smiley moved to Lavoy to operate the Feed Mill, Massey-Harris dealership and Texaco Bulk agency, while son, Howard, who had built the Mill, returned to the farm and operated it until 1944 when O.T. and his youngest son, Lawrence, moved back to the farm where Lawrence farms today. Over the years O.T. was active in the Lavoy Community, serving on the Local School Board for many terms. He also served on the Board of the Lavoy Co-op, which, when it failed, along with Ben Hawkins, Dave Valentine, Dan Tweedale and others, chose to pay the bills rather than declare



O. T. Smiley family, 1940.

bankruptcy. He was instrumental in developing the early telephone system through the rural area as well as helping set up the rural electrification association. Both Mr. and Mrs. Smiley were active in the Lavoy Baptist Church, serving in various capacities such as Deacon, Sunday School teachers and organist.

It is to be noted here that O.T. became a naturalized Canadian citizen soon after arriving in Canada.

In the late 30's he had an accredited herd of purebred Shorthorns from which he sold breeding stock, and also showed cattle in various places including Edmonton.

O.T. retired from the farm in the fall of 1949 and he and his wife moved to the Morris house south of Lavoy, where they lived until Mrs. Smiley passed away in February, 1956. He lived his later years in the Senior Citizens' home in Vermilion, and a Baptist Rest Home in White Rock, B.C. where he passed away one week before his 89th birthday. Mr. and Mrs. Smiley are both buried in the Lavoy Cemetery.

O.T. and "Mother" Smiley had many friends and nearby neighbors including the Bert Johnsons, Oscar and Eva Johnston, the John Semeniuks, Sam Hoyteniuks, Malloys, Dobells, Zulegars, McFarland and Couch families, and bachelors George and Charlie Colwell who often came to help and visit. In the early years before the railroad went through St. Paul, the Smiley home was often host to many of the settlers in the north that came to Lavoy to sell some pigs or a cow to Bill Purdue, the local stock-buyer, and to take back home their supplies. Bill Sutton of St. Lina was one of the yearly visitors and so a long visit ensued in order to catch up on news from either end.

The Family

Fred Smiley — farmed near Ranfurly, moving there in 1937, and while there married Ruth Erickson in 1941. He moved north of Sickman Lake before moving in 1945 to the former Tom Burkholder farm east of Lavoy, where they raised six children: Wayne, David, now farming the home place, Heather, Stuart, Albert and Robin. He and his wife reside in Vegreville.

Kenneth Smiley — married Thelma Erickson in 1941 and served in the Second World War from 1942 to 1946, after which he farmed on the Couch place east of Sickman Hill, until he sold it in 1971. He and his wife moved to Ft. Saskatchewan where they both worked in the hospital, until he retired in 1978. They have five children: Malcolm, Roger, Eric, Sandra and Nelson.

Howard Smiley — was engaged in trucking, live-stock and grain until 1939 when he farmed first on the home place, then east of Lavoy on Section 25. In October, 1943, he married Ruth Martinell of Glendon, who worked at the Treasury Branch at Vegreville. In 1947 they moved to Portland, Oregon, when he became the I.H.C. dealer in Mt. Vernon, Wash., north of Seattle. In 1972 the I.H.C. line was dropped and the Prefriction and Machine Shop expanded. Howard is retired at this time, with son Dale operating the family machine shop which today employs eight welders and two machinists. Howard and Ruth raised four children: Dale, Joyce, Julie and Dean.

Elva Smiley Olson — after completing her High School in Edmonton, went on to Normal School in Camrose, along with Vegrevilleites Alice Hoyteniuk (Bazer) and Lucille Dubuc. She taught school for several years before marrying Rev. Elmer Olson in 1941, serving in Baptist churches at Killam and Nanton, Alberta, before moving to the Vancouver area in 1947 where they served with the Evangelical Free Church. Elmer and Elva raised four children:



The first high-grade road in Norma Municipality, north of Lavoy along the Smiley farm (Sick Man Hill) about 1940.



The first snowplowing of the roads in the Vegreville area the winter of 1936-37. Howard Smiley's truck behind. Vegreville Chamber of Commerce snowplow with Ike Morton, the snowplow employee.

Ronald, Ruth, Arnold and Paul. She passed away in March, 1975.

Glenn Smiley — served in the Air Force during the Second World War, then went farming south of Lavoy on the McFarland place. In the early 1950's he began work with the Red Cross blood unit, then on to become Assistant Administrator at the University Hospital, Edmonton, and from there to Peace River to become Hospital Administrator. He is presently Hospital Administrator in Lloydminster. Glenn and Elaine raised two children: Brian and Dorothy. In 1969 he married Deborah Forrest.

Lawrence Smiley — is presently farming on the home place and is owner-operator of a school bus. He and his wife Cora (Shalen of Edmonton) were married in 1950 and raised three children: Ardythe, Kevin and Darolyn. They have been actively engaged in community life, the Baptist Church, Farm Forum, U.F.A., the Women's Institute, Recreation Board and the United Grain Growers.

Smith, Bill and Georgina **by Georgina (Johnston) Smith**

My father, Harry Johnston, my mother Georgina and myself, arrived in Vegreville from Saskatoon when I was five years old. Father's family had emigrated from Ontario to the Saskatoon area, while Mother's family had settled in Hillsboro, North Dakota, before moving to Saskatoon. Father had been employed in the Steam Power Plant there as electrical engineer before accepting the position of chief engineer in the Vegreville Power Plant. Charles Gordon was the mayor and Mr. Fitzallen the secretary-treasurer for the town at that time.

We came to Vegreville in 1916 and left in 1930. My sister, Louise, and brother, John, were born during that time in the R. M. B. hospital and Dr. Reid (Sr.) was our family doctor. In 1930 my parents moved to Vermilion where my father was employed

in the Power Plant. Louise remained single. In June, 1978, she passed away in Edmonton. John is married to Hazel Gregory, formerly of Grande Prairie. John joined the RCAF while in his teens and rose to the capacity of Communications Officer. He has recently retired but is frequently called upon to instruct classes. They have no children. They live in Edmonton.

As for myself, Georgina Smith, I live in Taber. I received my schooling in Vegreville. My first teacher was Miss Lang. Some other teachers were Mr. McCrea, Miss Garrison, Mrs. Tierney, Miss Wright. In 1929 I entered the first classes in the New Edmonton Normal School. My favourite instructors there were: Miss Donald Dickie, Mr. A. L. Doucette and Mr. Hedley. I taught in several country schools south of Vermilion (where my parents had recently moved) and in 1934 married William (Bill) Schmidt. The spelling of our name was later legally changed to Smith.

My husband had been employed by the Alberta Wheat Pool as elevator agent in Mundare, and Lacombe, and then at the time of our marriage was buying grain in Inland where we lived until the outbreak of the second World War. Those years in the Alida district were very happy ones in my life — wonderful friends — Johnsons', Atkinsons', Huletts', Trenhailes', Coles', Leachs', Rurkas', Goshkos', Jonas', etc.

Then Bill took leave of absence and joined the RCAF as aero-engine mechanic. At that time we had three children, Shirley, Billy and Melvyn. Bill was stationed down east for nearly a year while the family and I remained in Edmonton. On his return to Alberta, he was posted to Ft. Macleod so we moved there. Service life was quite different. After three years in Ft. Macleod, Bill was transferred to Penhold, and as the only living accommodation available was in nearby Lacombe, we bought a house there and remained until the war ended.

Again, Bill entered the employ of the Wheat Pool and we were delighted that Inland was available. Shortly after, we moved to Inland; we bought a quarter-section farm from Hulett Bros., a few miles distant and enjoyed our busy life. By this time four more children had been born, namely; Laurel, Bryan, Nola and Connie. The school-age children attended Leachville school and dearly loved Miss Lopichinsky. In winter they drove a closed-in cutter. Our daughter Shirley trained and received her R.N. in the Vegreville General Hospital.

My husband had been raised in the Vegreville area, the family moving from Bruderheim to the Imperial District when Bill was nine. He was the son of Adolf Schmidt, a farmer. His brother Arthur, in



Georgina Johnston — married Bill Smith whose father operated the power house 1 mile north of town. 1910's.

later years, operated a hog farm just west of town and was also active in various community organizations, such as Exhibition Board, Swine Club, Rotary, Curling and many more. He married Gertrude Holden and at that time sold his hog farm and built a home nearby. Gertrude and Arthur are now deceased.

Before my husband was married, he and Bob Wyllie won, first, the Provincial and then the Canadian Championship in Toronto for swine-judging. At that time Fred Newcombe was the District Agriculturist and was their coach. Bill and Bob attended the Vermilion School of Agriculture the following year.

Our four older children participated in the 4-H Beef Club which was an enriching experience for them. Our son, Billy, won the watch for highest achievement one year. This was presented to him by Charles Brinton. Melvyn won a number of awards for showmanship both in Edmonton and Vegreville. During this time my husband was the Alberta Wheat Pool agent in Vegreville and commuted to the farm as well as being a farmer.

When my parents first arrived in Vegreville, the town was considerably smaller than the present size. Main street sidewalks were boards or cinders, and the dirt streets were muddy when it rained and cars got stuck. The fair grounds were located north and west of town and were reached by rutted trails across the prairie sod, winding around low, muddy holes. The Power Plant was situated one mile north of town not far from an artesian well which continually gave forth cool, fresh water. Also near was the entrance to the long lane leading to J. Richardson's farm home, Prairie Lodge. I spent many happy hours there visiting my friend, Ruby Richardson.

As a girl, my first home in Vegreville was the large house of Chis Clements. A teacher, Miss Boardman, and a telephone operator, Miss Gould (who later married A. L. Horton), boarded with us for a while. I remember Miss Gould busy crocheting her beautiful tablecloths, etc.

From there we moved a few houses south to a small house in Mt. Pleasant, near the Boys' Home managed by Miss Windle. How well-disciplined those boys were. Our house was owned by Mr. Blackburn. A few years later we moved to the north side to the former Mahaffey house. The Medlands lived across the street, also Joe Green's. The Power Plant was relocated just north of the railway tracks on the main street and was soon converted from steam to oil.

We attended the United Church and at that time I recall Mr. Schragg. I remember various Christmas concerts in which Mr. Heywood, a school principal, was active (not to be confused with Mr. Hayhurst, also a principal). I took piano lessons from Mrs. Bertha Clements for seven years and annually took part in recitals which were held in Dobbin's Hall or Kieryluk's theatre. Dr. Monkman and Dr. Goodwin were the dentists. I recall the sign "Eyes, ears, nose and throat upstairs — Dr. Knowles" which always amused me.

While living in Inland, I joined a farm women's organization (U. F. W. A.). A year later, Mrs. E. Morton came out from town to one of our meetings to help us become affiliated with the Women's Institute. I have many happy memories of the Alida W. I. — meetings, picnics, conferences, handiwork competitions, etc. Alida Hall was built in memory of the first woman settler in that district — Alida Cole. Our Institute Branch was named Alida. We assisted in various community endeavors.

In 1956 we moved from the farm and bought a house in town. Shortly after, Bill was transferred to Brooks to take the position of Travelling Superintendent for the A. W. P. and we proceeded to move there. Our oldest son, Billy, attended the Vermilion

School of Agriculture, then joined the R. C. A. F. He received his wings in flying, then later entered employment with the Alberta Wheat Pool. At present he is the A. W. P. Manager for Grain Export Sales in Winnipeg where he resides. He is married to the former Kathy Cole, of Brooks, and they have five children.

While in Brooks, Melvyn was active in Air Cadets and won a flying scholarship in Lethbridge.

Bill was transferred to Taber in 1960 in the same capacity with the Pool. In 1964 he was killed in a car accident on his way to the elevator in Wrentham. I returned to teaching after thirty years' absence, then attended Missoula University and Lethbridge University for library training. I worked full-time in Taber Jr. and Sr. High School in the library for eleven years, after which I retired in June, 1978.

My family of seven are all married with families of their own. I have 20 grandchildren.

Shirley, my oldest child, married Wally Walker of Swift Current. They have four children.

Mel is married to a girl from Indiana; they live in Albuquerque and have three children.

Laurel is married to Dave Kimmett and they have three girls and reside in Calgary.

Bryan is in the R. C. M. P. in Commercial Fraud and he and Pat and two girls live in Fort Saskatchewan.

Nola and two small children live in Calgary where she is employed as X-ray technician.

Connie married John Jensen, they have one son, and also live in Calgary.

Vegreville will always be a place of treasured memories for me. I am saddened when I return each summer to learn of the passing of another dear old friend. I still call Vegreville "back home".

Smook, William and Dokia by Nellie Bartman

William Smook was born June 3, 1895 in Western Ukraine. He emigrated to Canada with his parents in 1897 and settled on a homestead in the district of Stuartburn, Manitoba, where he resided for twelve years. In 1910 Wm. moved to Youngstown, Alberta, where he farmed for eight years with his parents.

He met his future wife, Dokia Salamandyk, who was born March 4, 1900 in Stuartburn, Manitoba and later moved to Youngstown in 1918. They were married in the same year. They moved to Vegreville in 1925 and rented Peter Kulmatyski's farm, two quarters for two years. Then they moved east of Vegreville and rented the former Podealuk's land which is presently the "Soil Research Station". Next, they homesteaded three miles west of Vegreville where they broke new land and lived for

twelve years on John Onufrechuk's farm, now Rienhold and Nellie Hohn's place. In the meantime, his children received a great part of their education at the Vermilion-Ryan School. In 1939 they purchased two quarters of unbroken land fourteen miles south-east of Vegreville, which is now considered the family farm. Wm. Smook tamed and cultivated a sizeable portion of this farm with his own innovated "brush cutter".

They have four children--a son Alex who served for four years in the Canadian Air Force during World War II. Alex married Anne Miskiwi from Two Hills, Alberta, and they are presently living on the family farm. They have twin boys who are attending the University of Alberta. Bob and Bill are enrolled in the Faculty of Agriculture.

Nellie is married to Walter Bartman. She worked at Singer Sewing Centre, and then Taback's Dept.



William and Dokia Smook Family, 1968. Children (l. to r.) — Nellie, Mary, Hilda, Alex.



William and Dokia Smook Family, 1937. Children (l. to r.) — Nellie, Mary, Hilda, Alex.



Breaking land on John Onufreychuk's farm, 1927. Wm. Smook, Alex Daniluk (hired help), John Smook (brother to Wm. Smook), Metro Salamandick — owner of equipment, 1927.



Wm. Smook on last binder, Alex Smook on front binder, Hilda Smook on tractor, 1949.

Store. Her last active employment was with Eaton's Catalogue Sales Office, as manageress, until the company closed in the spring of 1976. While working for Eaton's, Nellie won a trip to Toronto in 1972 for the highest sales in the Vegreville district and surrounding towns. Her husband Walter worked at Purity 99 for Archie Steele and Gus Lentz, and then at Frank's Shell. Now, he is presently at Raydon Motors Ltd. They have one daughter, Marion, who entered the School of Nursing in Vegreville in 1964 and graduated in 1967. Marion is presently working at the Medical Center in Vegreville and is married to David Stashko. They are operating the "Starlet Dairy Farm". The barn is completely renovated from a former horse barn to a modern milking parlor, which has been approved by the government. They are milking approximately fifty to sixty cows yearly. Marion and David have three girls who are taking a keen interest in giving a hand in the barn.

Mary Ray, the second daughter, lives in Edmonton and is working for Edmonton Telephones. Her son Darby Fazackerly graduated from the University of Alberta, where he was enrolled in Commerce. He is furthering his studies to attain his Master's in Accounting. Darby recently married Donna Gordica, daughter of Harry and Sophie who formerly lived in Vegreville.

Hilda, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs.



Wm. Smook with hammer at wagon wheel, 1934. Others (l. to r.) — John Pidmurny, Peter Osatenko, Dokia Smook, Steve Smook.

Smook, married George Hagen. She has been employed for a number of years with the Department of Agriculture and has a keen interest in farm life. They have three children: Sherry, who married Hugh McKinnon and is now residing in Vernon, B. C., and who also has three children. Wayne, who is employed in Edmonton; and Candace who married Dale Gillis and works for "Edmonton Travel Agencies". Candace is following her mother's footsteps and is employed at the "Provincial Government--Department of Transportation". They have one child.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Smook have seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

In the early farming days Mr. Smook and neighbours used to help one another. He was a very capable blacksmith. He welded and sharpened plow shears, rebuilt iron wheel rims for wagons, and shod horses. In addition to the above trade, Mr. Smook was also a shoemaker, in his children's early years he made their shoes, he made harnesses for his and his neighbours' horses.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Smook are still living in the town of Vegreville and will soon be celebrating their Sixty-Second Wedding Anniversary. They are actively involved in the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, in which they are charter members. In addition they are active members of the Ukrainian Pioneers' Association and the recently organized Senior Citizens' Sunshine Club.

Soldan, John and Mary as told to M. L. English by daughter Jessie Soldan Odynski

John and Mary Soldan, their seven children and Mary's father, Clem Kowalshka, about sixty years of age, came to Canada from Peremyshl, Austria, approximately 1905. With them came the eldest daughter Mary's husband, Sam Geleta and one-year-old son, Mike.

The family came to a homestead four miles south of the present town of Two Hills. It rained when they arrived and there was no shelter, but these industrious people soon built a place to live. The old house is still there today.

John Soldan had many tools and made grindstones. He made tooth-pulling pincers and was skilled in pulling teeth.

Their children are Mary Geleta, Dmetro Soldan, Mike Soldan, Jessie Odynski, Pearl Palylyk, Martha Nikiforuk and Bill Soldan. They all lived near Vegreville.



Home of Mr. and Mrs. Dmytro Soldan, and their neighbors, near Two Hills, 1914. Seated (l. to r.) — Mother Kay Soldan, Mrs. Mary Buk, two of the Soldan children — Ann (Mrs. John Padlesky) and Jessie (Mrs. Peter Tymchuk). Standing (l. to r.) — Nick Snaychuk, Dmytro Soldan, Sam Geleta, Mary Geleta, Grandmother Mrs. John Soldan and Louie Dutka.

Soldan, Terry and Anne by Terry and Anne Soldan

Terry Dmytro Soldan was born in Two Hills, Alberta on January 25, 1922, son of Dmytro and Katherine (Buk) Soldan. The parents emigrated to Canada from Ukraine in 1910. Terry married Anne Melnychuk of Andrew in 1948.

He attended public school at Lanuke and high school in Two Hills. Mr. Soldan attended the University of Alberta and Normal School, obtaining his teacher's certificate.

He taught for a few years during 1941-47, then drove a bus from 1947-48, after which he joined Tower Plumbing for twenty-five years. During this time he obtained journeyman certificates in plumbing, gas and sheet metal. He is a past president of the Chamber of Commerce, past president, past District Deputy, and life member of the Kinsmen Club, past president and past D.D.G.E.R. of the Elks Lodge. He is a past president of the Canadian Legion and a member of the Masonic Lodge. Mr. Soldan has been a member of the Fire Department for twenty-six years, and also spent six years as Town Councillor.

Mr. Soldan served with the Canadian Army from 1943-45 in Canada and overseas. He won the Strathcona Trust Medal for athletic achievement; he was on a Legion Curling team that won Provincial Championship and entered Dominion. In 1967 he was on a K40 team that won the Dominion Curling Championship.

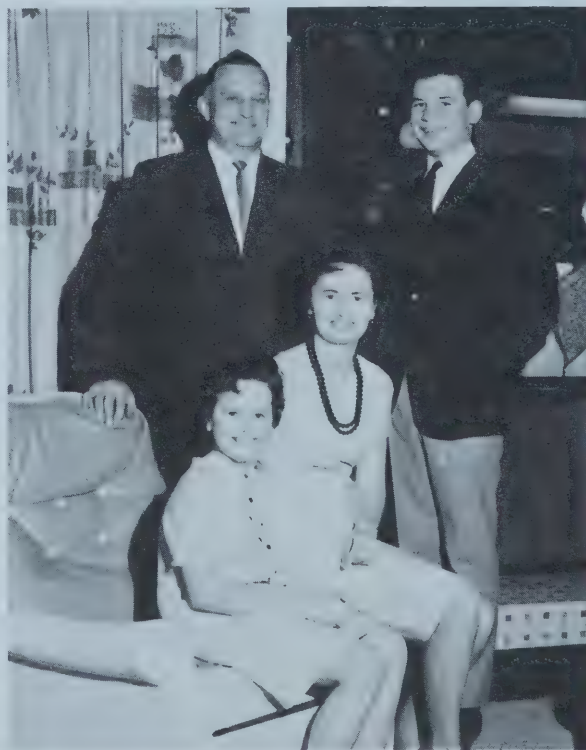
Poor health in 1970 forced retirement from Tower Plumbing, but started Terry on a new career in engraving and gifts under Veg-Tel Gifts in which he is still actively engaged.

His hobbies include coin collecting, hunting, fishing and water skiing. He is a past president of the Fish and Game Association.

Mr. Soldan is a member of the Ukrainian Greek Orthodox Church, also a past president.

In recent years, Terry has been quite active in the Vegreville Exhibition Association and at present is the first Vice-President of that Association.

Mrs. Soldan, besides being actively engaged in helping her husband in his present business, has been a member of the Orthodox Ladies' Association for the past thirty-one years; a charter member, past honoured Royal Lady, and Past District Deputy of the Order of the Royal Purple for twenty-nine years; President of the Kinette Club; member of the I.O.D.E. Chapter Ada I. Wright; very actively in-



Terry and Anne Soldan and their two children, Douglas and Debbie, in Terry Soldan's home, Vegreville, 1967.

volved with the Figure Skating association when their daughter, Debbie, was growing up and with Boy Scouts and Hockey Association when their son, Douglas, grew up; as well as with the Parent-Teacher Association; a volunteer worker and secretary for many years with the Canadian Cancer Society and is currently on the Board of Directors (Alberta Divisions). Besides being very actively involved in a lot of community projects, Mrs. Soldan has been employed with the Alberta Attorney General's Department and is presently a Deputy Administrator of the Provincial Court in Vegreville.

Terry and Anne are also very proud grandparents of a granddaughter, Tanya Marie, who is fifteen months old now.

Speers, Wesley

Wesley Speers was born Feb. 3rd, 1880 in Owen Sound, Ontario. He came to Lanuke (now Two-Hills) Alberta in 1903. He homesteaded there and married Stella English who was born June 11th, 1884 near Brandon, Manitoba.



Road building in the early days, about 1910. George Brown, road boss, standing at the grader controls. Wesley Speers standing on the road; the two horses on the left were named "Major" and "Grey".



World War I Red Cross Sale at Two Hills. (l. to r.) — Mrs. J. Forbes, Mrs. R. McQuillan, Frank Johnson, Eleanor English, Mrs. C. Ahlstrom, Fred Shoff — standing with white dot on vest. Mr. A. Worth — Auctioneer, Scotty Whitford, front left. The bottle being sold contained horseradish made by Mrs. Sam (Annie) English, and Frank Johnson bought it. About 1916.

In 1916 they sold the homestead to Stella's Father, Sam English, then bought Mr. Hans Peterson's farm at Bens Lake; their Post Office was Warwick.

After World War II they sold the farm to Stella's brother, George English, a returned soldier. Then they retired to an acreage in Coquitlam, near New Westminster, B.C., taking with them many happy memories of their good neighbors and friends of both the Lanuke and Bens Lake areas.

Wesley Speers passed away June 19th, 1959, his loving wife Stella August 6th, 1971.

Their one child, Evelyn, and her husband, Frank Allore, now live in Edmonton. They have 4 children. Lorraine (Mrs. Stanley Headrick) of Vancouver, B.C.

Raymond Allore, an Edmonton High School Teacher.

Stella (Mrs. William Hert) of Calgary.

Jeannie (Mrs. Douglas Cowan) of Cincinnati, Ohio, U.S.A.

Stanton Family (1900-1979)

by Mary Kelly and Sadie Ross

The Call of the West was heard as far away as the quiet Ottawa Valley. In 1900, from the little town of Pakenham, John Stanton went out to Strathcona to file on homesteads for himself, his son Jim, Jim Killoran, and Tom Farrell. One hundred and sixty acres of rock-free land for ten dollars, live on it for three years, make the required improvements, and then it was all yours. Quite a contrast to the small farms in the Ottawa Valley!

John Stanton returned to Ontario feeling he had really made the right move. In the spring of 1901, the four men loaded up a car of settlers' effects and journeyed to Strathcona. They drove overland to their homesteads a distance of about one hundred miles. The trail presented many problems — streams to be crossed, mosquitoes — few and far between "stopping-houses". When they arrived at their homesteads, they built shacks, dug wells, and ploughed a few acres of land. The shacks were primitive, but did boast the luxury of wooden floors and windows. Not all pioneer homes had these.

In November, 1901, Mrs. Jim Stanton with her two young children, Mary aged three, and Halley, five months, accompanied by "Grandma", Mrs. John Stanton, made the trip out to Strathcona. They were met by Jim Stanton who drove his family out to their new home. Mrs. Jim Killoran came out in 1902. Tom Farrell was a bachelor. These pioneers were the settlers who began the settlement known as "The Ridge" five miles east of Old Vegreville.

A few months later Tom Ryan and family joined this group, acquiring a nearby quarter-section. The Ryans came from Iowa.

The Catholic people were served by travelling missionaries who came at infrequent intervals. Jim Stanton wrote the Bishop of St. Albert requesting him to establish a parish for the families in Old Vegreville and those on "The Ridge". In January, 1904, St. Martin's Parish came into existence served by Reverend August Bernier and Reverend Jean Garnier.

Jim Stanton was appointed as "Land Guide" to help the men find the land they had filed on at Strathcona. These "land-seekers" as they were known were welcomed into the pioneer homes. They provided their own "grub", as food was called, put their bed rolls on the floor and made use of the cook-stove. Morning brought surprises as these bed rolls came to life. Doors were never locked, the pioneer women were often alone with small children, but no one was afraid. This hospitality was not abused.

In 1903, Dr. Rush came to Old Vegreville as its first doctor. Previous to that, mid-wives assisted the young mothers. Mrs. Kate Ryan, fondly known as Nana, was a popular one, loved by the young mothers and feared a bit by the children. She told the children if they did not behave she would take the new baby with her. The children behaved very well for the duration of her stay. Mrs. Dennis was another helpful mid-wife.

About 1905, Jim Stanton felt there was need for a local auctioneer. He applied for and received his license for five dollars — a large investment at that time. Jim became a synonym for selling from Lamont to Vermilion, from Brosseau to Holden and all points in between. He served for thirty-five years. His good voice and quick wit made "the sales" profitable for owners and an outing for the residents of the district.

During the 1914-1918 war, Jim conducted many sales in aid of "The Red Cross" and a great deal of money was made. Jim boasted that he would sell anything and everything. On one occasion in the Whitford district, one of "the locals" said "Jim, will you really sell anything?" After a minute's hesitation, Jim replied, "Yes, anything." "Alright then", said the prankster, "Sell, 'John Doe', the most eligible bachelor here." Spirited bidding followed and 'John Doe' was sold for one hundred dollars. The money went to the Red Cross and the bachelor went his merry way.

So many of the homesteaders were bachelors it made it difficult to form a school district. In 1908, the Daughters of Providence established a school in Vegreville. Miss Anna Doyle was the first teacher.

She later joined the Order and was known as Sister Mary Claire. Della and Allie Pelletier and Mary Stanton were the first boarders at the new convent.

A small hospital was opened in 1911 by the Sisters of Charity of Evron. The old-timers fondly remember Sister Josephine who did Lab Work, X-Ray Work, supervised the Operating Room and the Nursing School. Quite an endeavor for one small lady!

Dr. A. Couillard came to Vegreville when the hospital opened and was known far and wide for his kindness and skill. A twenty-mile drive, with horses, on a cold winter night was not a rare occasion for this devoted doctor. If he were needed, he went. During the 1918 "flu", he worked day and night; when he became too tired to see to drive his "Ford", he pulled to the side of the road and had a sleep.

Jim Stanton, himself, was really a man of vision. His desire for education for the young people and his practice of ecumenism, when even the word was scarcely known, were two qualities which set him aside. He gave generously of his time and talents to the Town Council, St. Martin's School Board, the Knights of Columbus, and the Elks' Lodge. He was a familiar usher in St. Martin's Church for many years.

Mrs. Stanton, typical of the woman of her day, did not work out of her home, but did give generously, too, to Parish and Community Activities. She was a charter member of the C. W. L., a life-long member of the Women's Institute, and was very active with the Red Cross during the 1914-1918 War. Her home was always open to anyone in need of help or encouragement.

The Stanton Family

Mary — a graduate of St. Martin's and Camrose Normal School. She taught in Vegreville Public School until her marriage in 1922 to Con Kelly of Mundare. They are still enjoying life together and live in Edmonton. They have two children.

Halley — worked the farm with his Dad and later went into the Implement Business with him. The latter part of his life he was engaged in construction work. He married Lena Barrie in 1921 — they had two children. Lena died in 1947 and Halley in 1962.

Leo — the first Albertan of the Stantons was born in 1903. He received his education at St. Martin's, Campion College, Regina, and McGill University. Leo died at the early age of 31.

Sadie — born in 1909. Graduated from Vegreville High School and Camrose Normal School. She taught at St. Martin's School and then in St. Albert where she met and married her husband Neil Ross. They had a family of six children. One will get special mention. Sheila Stanton Ross developed arthritis at the age of four. She was very handicapped and spent the rest of her life in a wheel-

chair. In spite of her affliction, she completed High School, obtained a B.A. and an M.A. from the University of Alberta, and taught English 20 and 30 in St. Albert High School until the time of her death in November, 1978. Neil passed away in February, 1977; Sadie still makes her home in St. Albert.

Austin — born in 1912, received his education at St. Martin's and Vegreville High. He was very active in the Reserve Militia and in the early years of World War II, he joined the Calgary Tanks; he attained the rank of Captain, took part in the Dieppe Raid where he was taken prisoner by the Germans and remained in a prison camp in Germany until the end of the war. He returned to Canada in 1945 and went into business in Holden and later in Vegreville. He is still active in the Insurance Business in Edmonton. In 1937, he married Margaret Byron, and they had four children. Austie and Marg have made their home in Edmonton since 1956.

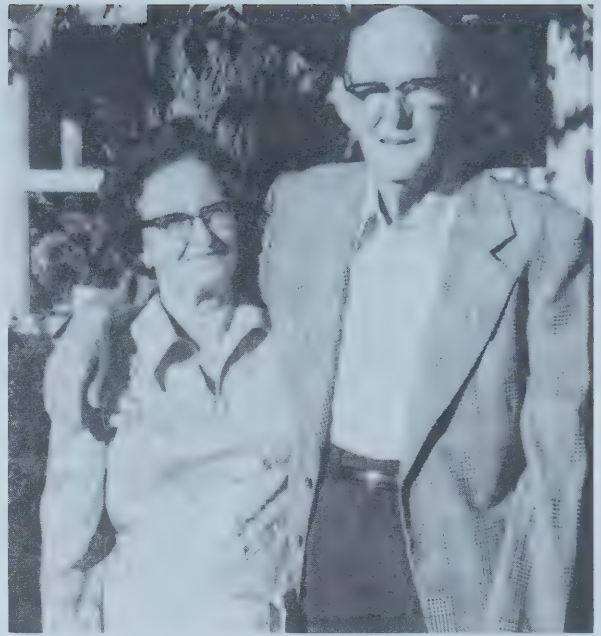
An interesting side issue. In 1976, Douglas Ross, Jim Stanton's grandson, married Linda Farrell, Tom Farrell's granddaughter. They live in Whitehorse and have a baby daughter, Kinnon Sheila.

Steele, Archie **by Naomi Steele**

Mr. Edward Steele was born in Grenville, Quebec, 1870. He moved to Pickford, Michigan, when a young man. There he married Sofia Wonnocott. They moved to Hanna, Alberta, around 1913 with a family of four: Archie, Eddie, Charlotte and Katie. Two more children were born in Hanna: Fern and Mildred. They farmed and ran a dray business for a few years. Having heard of great crops around Vegreville they moved here in 1920. Here they farmed on the Tom Balaam and Carol Fraser farms. They used to haul grain for Scritzmer and others in that vicinity. Then Archie started working at the Thomas Garage as a car salesman. He worked there for 19 years, then went into business for himself in



Vegrevillians watch the big fire at Purity Service shed, 1950. Owners — Archie Steele and Gus Lentz.



Mr. and Mrs. Archie Steele, on his 80th birthday, 1979.

partnership with Robert Langpap and Gus Lentz. He was in Purity 99 Service for 26 years. Then he retired.

Stefancik, Dr. Jan M.D. **by Anne Stefancik**

Dr. Stefancik emigrated to Canada from Czechoslovakia with his mother, Maria, in 1948. They came to live with his father, who previously emigrated in 1928, also from Czechoslovakia, establishing himself on a homestead in Wildwood, Alberta.

Dr. Stefancik took one year of high school at St. Anthony's College in Edmonton. In 1950 he entered



Dr. Jan Stefancik, 1980.

the University of Alberta. He received his degree in the Faculty of Medicine in 1957.

In 1954 he married Anne Steller from Winterburn, Alberta, whose parents also emigrated from Czechoslovakia in 1927.

After interning at the Edmonton General Hospital for two years, Dr. Stefancik joined Dr. N. J. Kuzyk in the practice of medicine in June, 1959, and has remained with the Vegreville Clinic until the present time.

The Stefanciks were blessed with seven children, six of whom are living. All have been educated in Vegreville and Edmonton. James, the eldest, resides in Fort McMurray, Alberta, working for Syncrude; Grace, a pharmacist, lives and works in Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta; Annette and Theresa attend the University of Alberta taking their Bachelor of Education; Susan is completing her Grade twelve and Janice, the youngest, attends St. Mary's School taking Grade Six.

Vegreville has been very good to us and we are proud to call Vegreville our home.

Steinhauer, Ralph and Isabel as told to M. H. Tomyn

Ralph Steinhauer was born in 1905 at Morley, west of Calgary. This was the year Alberta became a province, a historical event that seventy years later provided Ralph with the rare opportunity of serving in the vice-regal role. Ralph's parents were James and Emilia (nee Mumford) Steinhauer. James Steinhauer was the stepfather. In a family of seven, Ralph was second oldest.

From Morley the family moved to Brochet and a short time later, in 1908, to Saddle Lake. The trip to Vegreville was made by train, and the rest of the journey by wagon.

Mrs. Emilia Steinhauer was born in the state of Rhode Island, U.S.A., and taught school at Saddle Lake, beginning in 1909. The school was established by the Methodist Church. It is interesting to note that Saddle Lake Reserve, after the first survey of 1890, was set aside for agriculture while the Whitefish Reserve was to be used for lumbering, hunting, and fishing.

The Treaty provided for education for Indian children. Since there were no schools on some Reserves, the children went to Indian Residential Schools established by church groups and funded to some extent by the government. Ralph attended the Red Deer Residential School till 1914. The school produced most of the food for the children. Students were taught farming, carpentry and other farm-oriented trades. In attendance there were about 140 Indian boys and girls from different parts of the



Ralph and Isabel Steinhauer's 50th wedding anniversary, 1978. Children (l. to r.) — Ken, June, Kathleen, Doreen, Muriel.

province. It was not uncommon to see thirty to forty families coming to the railway station to send their children off to school at Red Deer.

What did the boys do for a pastime? That was fairly well determined by the expectations of the parents. Although the parents stressed education, up to 1914 Ralph got very little of it since school lasted for only a part of each year. Times were difficult and trapping was a matter of survival. Pelts were cheap — 17¢ for muskrat and \$5 for coyote. On the lake, Ralph attended to his trapping on skates, for faster maneuverability. At thirteen he worked as a man at harrowing, seeding, stooking, threshing, and haying. Although he had to work hard, he still found time to play, especially hockey on frozen lakes. A curved willow stick was a good substitute for a hockey stick.

In 1920, at the age of fifteen, Ralph went to Brandon, Manitoba, for an extended education. He spent three years at this residential school, learning the three r's. He says that his residence at this school spelled some of the better years of his life.

The railway went through Vilna in 1919. Ralph tried working on it between school sessions. He drove two spikes, found the job too strenuous, and was then promoted to water boy. After a stint at this job he returned to help on the farm.

Vilna was a growing town. Harold Southwell operated a general store, post office, central telephone and banking service. Ralph worked at this place of business for some years.

In 1928 he started farming on his own. That same year he married Isabel Davidson, a young lady from Buffalo, New York, who had taught at Vilna for one year.

The couple had no house and lived in a tent for a part of the year. Later that summer they built a two-room shack which served them till 1953 when a



Lt. Gov. Ralph Steinhauer and Mrs. Steinhauer in front of Government House, January, 1976.

bigger home was erected. Isabel did not teach after her marriage but devoted her time to her family and household duties. In 1954 the Steinhauers put power into their home and in 1955 installed the waterworks system.

The Steinhauers were blessed with five children, and presently have sixteen grandchildren and five great-grandchildren as follows:

Muriel, married to Manywounds, Calgary, teacher, four children — 2 boys, 2 girls, and one grandson, has taught school for 25 years.

Doreen, married to Oke, Toronto, teacher and nurse, 3 children — 3 girls.

Kathleen, married to Anderson, Edmonton, public health nurse, 4 children — 3 boys, one girl.

June, married to Chisan, Brosseau farm, housewife, 4 children — 2 boys, 2 girls, and 4 grandchildren.

Ken, married, Edmonton, city employee, one girl.

The Steinhauer children attended several schools — Duclos at Bonnyville and High School at Alberta College where Dr. Villett was principal. Ken, the youngest child, received all his education at Two Hills. Travelling to Two Hills was easier when the Duvernay bridge was built in 1930-31.

How does one start to farm on the reserve? In 1928 there was no limit to the number of acres chosen. Ralph staked out a whole section, and expanded it to 2000 acres. There were 800 acres under cultivation, sixteen miles of fencing, and no taxes to pay.

Who is eligible to live at Saddle Lake Reserve? A registered Indian of that Band lives on and farms the

land but does not own it per se. He owns the improvements. The Band decides all facets in relation to residence and land ownership. In 1932 there were 1000 residents at Saddle Lake while today there are approximately 2400.

Ralph Steinhauer has had a varied and colorful career. He was the Band Councillor of the Saddle Lake Organization for 37 years. For three years he served as Chief of the Band, an elected position similar to that of a reeve of a municipality or county. Four to five days a week were spent on work related to the business of the reserve. The Chief is ex-officio on every committee — leases for gas, education, farming, etc. Ralph served in executive posts of the following: U.F.A. (F.U.A.), Champlain Rural Electrification Association, Brosseau Mutual Telephone, St. Paul Chamber of Commerce, and Two Hills Chamber of Commerce. In 1963 he was Liberal candidate for the Vegreville Federal Constituency. He feels the campaign was really an education in itself. He enjoyed meeting so many people and hearing their problems.

The biggest challenge Ralph ever had in his life was his last appointment. From 1974 to 1979 he was the Lieutenant-Governor of Alberta, a first for his people. At first he was leery about accepting the position, thinking that he didn't qualify for the post, in relation to others. Immediately after his appointment he received congratulations from different places, even from the U.S.A. and England. His five years in the vice-regal role were definitely the best years of his life.

At the time of writing, Ralph is retired but will do some work around the farm. He plans to take time to travel Alberta, more slowly this time in order to observe more. In his role as Lieutenant-Governor he travelled all over Alberta and met many wonderful people, including school children. But his stay at many places was short, so now he and his wife will visit again, take their time and enjoy themselves some more.

Ralph says that the people over the province are most wonderful people; everywhere they gave him a real down-to-earth Alberta welcome. Meeting and accompanying Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip in 1978 on their visit to Alberta was the highlight of his role as Lieutenant-Governor.

Behind every successful man is a very busy and dedicated woman. Isabel Steinhauer had a very active community life. She played a big role in the field of education. She was instrumental in organizing a school committee for adult education; she served on the committee and conducted classes for several years. In the mid-thirties she taught her own children at home since there was no school in the vicinity.

(This was twenty years before the advent of the school bus). For Isabel, education was paramount — she herself was a school teacher, she had a growing family, and she was cognizant of the value of such an amenity especially for the area where she lived. She also assisted her husband in all his community endeavors.

During Ralph's term as Lieutenant-Governor, Isabel accompanied him on most of his official visits and functions and found the experience very warm and rewarding.

And Ralph says, "She is a very good wife and mother."

Stewart, George by Heathy (Stewart) Challenger

In November of 1906, Mr. and Mrs. Stewart with their two sons — Andrew and Earl, and two daughters — Heathy and baby sister Florence, arrived in Vegreville from Neepawa, Manitoba.

What a bleak outlook — the farm Father had purchased was now ten miles from town instead of four as the townsite had been moved.

We lived in what the boys called the "Tin House" just north of the tracks for the first few months until our furniture arrived in February. Our Christmas dinner was eaten off a packing box which when turned over doubled as a bed for me. The turkey was

cooked by a very kind baker, George Abbott, and transferred home well wrapped.

Poor Mother, I don't know how she managed but we all survived. Wood had to be cut, stove stoked, water carried and snow melted for washing. There was no shortage of the latter as it was the winter of the "Big Snow."

In the spring of 1907 we moved to "The Blue House", two and a half blocks north of the tracks on Main Street, just west of Harry Pozer's and Ada I. Wright's.



A Saturday Activity, Camrose, 1920. (l. to r.) — Heathy Stewart, Eleanor Goodwin, Eva Warren, Muriel Patterson and ? No hair dryers then.



Leachville Ladies Red Cross. Front row (l. to r.) — Mrs. John Shaw, Mrs. Willis Cole, Mrs. Henry Trenhaile, Mrs. George Stewart, Mrs. Thomas Selph, grandma Alida Cole. Back row (l. to r.) — Mrs. Lu Hullet, Mrs. Fred Pierce and Mrs. Ezra Leach, 1914-18.

Mother took in sewing and had boarders; one I remember real well was Tom Leask, a carpenter. She refused to go to the farm until there was a school. Andy was nine and Earl seven, so attended the first school in Vegreville.

Dad worked at the Livery Barn and drove a team for them. We had our own team and buggy or cutter, as the season required, for transportation of any distance. Shanks ponies were used for trips to town and school.

One event stands out in my memory of the time spent in the "Blue House". In February 1909 Moth-



Homestead house S.E. of Vegreville. Mrs. Stewart, Heathy and Florence. Standing (l. to r.) — Alex Adams, Earl and Andrew Stewart, 1910's.



The Stewart Children (l. to r.) — Andrew and Earl, Florence and Heathy, 1914.



Mrs. George Stewart, 1917.



(l. to r.) — Jessie Arthur, Lovie Lang, Dorothea Whittaker, Irene Kennedy, about 1910.

er's sister, Ida, and Grandma Crittenden arrived from Neepawa, Man. Aunt Ida was to be married — but when the bridegroom arrived later he had developed pneumonia. The doctor ordered him to the R.M.B. Hospital. Aunt Ida was adamant that they were going to be married. They were married, the bridegroom in bed in his night shirt and the bride standing by his bed in her wedding finery.

A comment by the doctor — "A bride to-day; a widow to-morrow."

They proved him wrong. Love has strong healing powers and they had a long, happy married life.

In 1910 we moved to a large eight-roomed house across from the Presbyterian Church, demolished now — more boarders — four teachers that year, (what a pain in the neck for us children!)

I remember skipping along to school my first day between Mr. G. Lord, principal, and Miss Helen Forrest (Big Nell as she was called at home), my red curls a-dancing.

In our four-roomed brick school we had fourteen red-heads — three Shaws; three Frasers; three Hepburns; three Stewarts; one Waddell and one Force. The three Holdens were auburn, so we were told. The conductor on the train said he knew where to let off a red-head — Vegreville. It was a joke for many years.

Father filed on a homestead, twenty-two miles south-east of Vegreville where a log shack had been built. This became two bedrooms and a large frame kitchen was built on to it. Here we went for the summer months to prove up on it. Father commuted and Miss McKee (Aunt Aggie) and Grandma Crittenden kept the boarders happy in town.

We had four oxen, later two white horses, and a team of cayuses that loved to run away on Mother. Earl and I had fun riding the oxen but for the mosquitoes. They were huge and hungry. The hay sloughs were full of them so smudges were the order of the day for both man and beasts.

We had two large hounds that helped the boys catch gophers as Earl saved the tails for bounty.



Earl and Heathy Stewart, Detroit, Mich., 1934.

September 1912 ended the homestead days as a cyclone swept through a mile-wide swath from south of Tofield to north of Ranfurly. Three of us had gone back to town to school so Mother and Andy were left to carry on. There was a lovely crop of wheat to be harvested. Things looked rosy. Early in September Andy had gone to town for a binder so Mother was to be alone until a neighbor came to spend the night.

She laid the fire but had not started it as she didn't like the looks of the storm clouds brewing. She went down into the bedroom to sew and while there the storm struck.

It carried the kitchen part over the fence into the pasture smashing it to pieces; the log part was turned upside down and when the logs parted at the corner Mother crawled out and ran to the barn for protection. She had huge bruises where she was battered by the hail stones. When all was over, she picked up the kitten and walked to Brockett's, two miles west. Moorheads were frantic when they rode over and found the house demolished and no Mother. Sam noticed the foot prints and they followed them expecting to find her collapsed by the trail. He rode into Vegreville to report to Dad — there was no need for a binder.



Mr. H. C. Clark, Principal Vegreville Public and High School, June 1920.

Times were hard but we always had plenty to eat, warm clothes and we were warm. Father saw to that. I can never remember being cold at home but oh, some of my boarding places — a brass monkey would have frozen.

Father and the boys worked the farm at Ideal and when school was out in June 1916 we moved. From then on I was home only for weekends and holidays. Florence and I stayed with Aunt Flora Stewart in the Boswell Boys' Home so we could attend school. Eventually a school was built at Ideal where Florence went for a few years. I was in High School, so continued on in Vegreville.

Mother was an active member of the Presbyterian Ladies Aid and served on the early exhibition Needle Work Committee when the fairs were held north-west of town. She became deeply involved with her work in the Red Cross and was honored for her dedication by a "Life Membership". She wore her pin proudly.

Father was an avid curler and spent many hours at the curling rink a block from the house. Whole families would be there, the men curling, the children skating on the outside rink beside the curling rink. The wives, wrapped in robes of all kinds to keep their feet warm, would be watching and rooting

for their husbands. Buffalo robes were often seen as most families owned one.

Mother died in November 1925 and after twelve lonely years Father passed away in May 1937.

Andrew joined the army a week after his eighteenth birthday and went overseas immediately from Calgary. In no time he was in the trenches (those boys were gun fodder) and spent time in a field hospital suffering from mustard gas which plagued him the rest of his life. He served with the Army of Occupation in Bonn, Germany, arriving home in June 1919. He worked around Vegreville during the "Depression", then left for Edmonton where he worked for the C.N.R. freight division until his death in 1960.

Earl worked on the farm until 1923 when he went to Windsor, Ont. He worked for Ford Motor Co., then for Detroit Times, where he learned the printer's trade, until his death in 1948. He left a widow, Elsie, and a young son George Stewart just graduated from High School. Elsie lives in Monroe, Mich. and George in Toledo, Ohio.

Florence married Alfred Johnson and they moved to Minnesota where she still resides. Alfred died in 1973. They had one daughter and three granddaughters.

I finished High School, Camrose Normal School



Teenagers, 1920 Variety. (l. to r.) — Heathy Stewart, Kathleen Fraser, Helen Shaw, on the steps of the old school. Notice the high-laced shoes.



A bevy of girls, 1918 variety. Back row (l. to r.) — Glenna Richardson, Eva Warren, Elizabeth Bowen, Grace Jewel. Front row (l. to r.) — Gladys Monroe, Marjorie Fraser and Florence Perley.

and started teaching north of Mundare in July 1921. I taught for fifteen years in and around Vegreville before my marriage to Ralph Challenger of Edgerton in July 1936. He was killed in a tragic accident in 1965. A shortage of substitute teachers found me back in the classroom in 1962, then full-time after Ralph's death. They were very rewarding years. I retired in 1971 to live in Wainwright, Alta. We had a daughter and son, Mrs. Doreen Schmidt of Grande Prairie and Murray Challenger of Moncton, N.B. There are three grandsons, Dean Schmidt, William and Cory Challenger.

Stewart, James and Family by Lizzie (Stewart) Suddaby

James A. Stewart was born at Renfrew, Ontario, on August 17, 1866. He married the former Mary Ellen Smith of Admaston, Ontario. They came to Beaver Lake, Alberta, in 1898, and took up a homestead. They had three children then, Tena, James and Lizzie. Margaret was born on November, 1899, Robert in 1905 and William in 1906.

Mr. Stewart served as a councillor and reeve for many years, and also a school trustee for many years. He brought the first steam threshing machine into the district, and did custom threshing for many years. Strathcona, now South Edmonton, forty miles away, was the nearest railway and a source of supplies.

Mrs. Stewart passed away in March, 1941, at the age of 75; Mr. Stewart in March, 1957, at the age of

91; Robert in July, 1906, at the age of 14 months; William in October, 1957, at the age of 51; James in June, 1966, at 69 years; Tena (Mrs. A. H. Martin) in November, 1976, at 82 years. Lizzie, Mrs. E. Suddaby, lives at Donalda and is a widow. Margaret, Mrs. E. Ferguson, also a widow, lives in Edmonton.

Stonehocker, Joseph

by R. S. Stonehocker

In the year of 1902 the Joseph Stonehocker family arrived in the Vegreville district from Coshocton, North Dakota. They travelled by covered wagon, reaching their destination after an arduous journey over uncharted prairie trails. With Joseph were four of his children, two boys Lloyd and John and two girls, Lavara and Lillie. An older girl, Nellie, was married and remained in the United States. Joseph's wife, Mary, had passed away before the trek to Alberta. The family settled on a homestead just out of Old Vegreville but soon decided that farming was not for them so they moved to the hamlet of Lavoy where Joseph and his two sons opened up a real estate office, which was quite successful.

In 1906, just after the Canadian Northern Railway was built, the two sons bought an Oldsmobile car. It was a deluxe model, two-passenger touring car with a single-cylinder engine and a flywheel as large as a 15-30 tractor and was equipped with a chain drive. It was probably the first car shipped out of Edmonton and was certainly the first car in the Vegreville district.

The local Mounties and the Vegreville town constable, Bill Rogers, would not allow the car in the town as it would cause no end of runaways since the teams of horses were tied to hitching posts on both sides of the street. The boys had to park the car at the little golf course just east of the town and walk into town to do their business, shopping and visiting, and then walk back to the car with their purchases for the return trip home.

About twenty years after this, when John was in Vegreville, he met Bill Rogers and told him that the town should fire him as he was no good as a policeman anymore. Bill asked why and John said, "Just look at all the cars up and down the street; when we had our first car you wouldn't even allow us inside the town limits and now look at them". They both had a good laugh as they reminisced about the changes in the community.

The Oldsmobile kicked out quite a cloud of smoke at times and the Pearce family, north of Lavoy, could always tell when John was on his way



Four generations: James Stewart, father; Christina Martin, his daughter; Ella Bailey, his granddaughter; Douglas Bailey, his great-grandson, 1950's.

to visit their daughter Olive, by watching for the smoke signals. Olive later became John's wife.

In 1916 Joseph Stonehocker decided that he wanted to return to North Dakota so he, along with John and his family, set out by train for the old home place. However, everything had changed so much and most of the old friends had passed on or moved away so they did not want to stay. They purchased a 1916 McLaughlin Buick touring car, equipped to pull a trailer, and toured the country before returning to settle again in the Lavoy district.

Joseph and his son, John, imported 200 head of registered, purebred Aberdeen Angus cattle and moved this herd to Cold Lake, Alberta, in 1918, settling on the Dick Johnson lease just south of French Bay on Cold Lake. In 1919 a bush fire devastated the area, wiping out the ranch buildings and all the equipment. In the following years they were plagued by cattle rustlers and flooded meadows, which restricted the hay crops so that wintering the cattle became an expensive chore at times. After several years of setbacks they decided to close out the ranching business and Joseph and his son returned to Lavoy. After the death of his father, John and his family continued to reside in Lavoy until 1932 when they moved to farm land in the Pierceland, Saskatchewan, area.

During the ranching years John's family made annual trips from Lavoy to the ranch during summer vacation time. These trips were made by team and wagon as the trails were not suitable for the car. All the necessities were loaded into the wagon, along with the children, and the trek would start. It took four days to go the approximate 150 miles to the ranch. These were days of pure fun and pleasure for the children as they ran behind or in front of the wagon, climbing back on for a ride when they got tired, played around the campfire at night and slept beneath the stars. Later, as the roads improved, the car was used instead of the wagon and many hours were spent stuck in mudholes or in the sand along Moose Lake.

During the first few years the summers were spent putting up hay for the cattle. Acres and acres of hay were cut and coiled, then stacked with two teams of horses on a 'bucking roll' and slide. The children had the job of tramping the hay in the stack with the older ones topping the stack off to turn the rain.

Later, after the disposal of the stock, the summers were spent swimming, picnicking, berry-picking and exploring, and these holidays were the highlight of the year as the children forgot the cares of school and gave way to the full enjoyment of the summer

before returning to Lavoy for another ten months of school.

Lloyd Stonehocker married Belle McGregor from north of Lavoy and they moved to Craig Lake, near Dorintosh, which is a little settlement north of Meadow Lakes, Saskatchewan.

Lavara Stonehocker married Bill Withers and settled on a farm south of Lavoy. They had two children, Guy and Lillie.

Lillie Stonehocker married Elijah Hummel, a hardware storekeeper at Viking, Alberta. They had one adopted daughter.

John Stonehocker married Olive Pearce and they had ten children. There were six boys, Joseph Jr., Richard, John Jr., Ivan, Oliver and Eugene along with four girls, Opal, Nellie, Olive and Ruth.

Strong, C. Gordon

by C. G. Strong

He may not qualify as an old-timer in the Vegreville district but he certainly does as far as Alberta is concerned. He detrained in Bassano on June 9th, 1909, having come from Montreal with his parents and his uncle's family and his grandparents. They drove by wagons and two-horse teams for sixty



Gordon Strong, 1967.

miles to a land location, fording the Red Deer River on their way. This land was section 34-28-13 west of 4. At that time there were no roads or fences and the buffalo paths were still without grass. The prairie was partially covered with bleached buffalo bones and carcasses. The bones when shattered by a hammer and stone served as lime for laying hens.

Between 1909 and 1921 they acquired two sections of land for farming. There was an abundance of land to serve as pasture for a large herd of cattle and a string of horses. They also operated a coal mine. In 1914 they bought a Fordson tractor, the first model to be manufactured. Mr. Strong's mother chose Rose Lynn as the suggested name for a post office. Ottawa accepted it. A general store was also operated with the post office. In 1912, Hanna was founded, 23 miles northwest of Rose Lynn while Richdale was 16 miles to the northeast. In 1916 a spur line was built from Bonar to Steveville and the post office and store were moved to the spur line.

From 1921 to 1932 Mr. Strong attended S'Cona High School, Camrose Normal School and taught school for three years at Pleasant Hill, Forcina and Sunnynook. In 1932 he earned his B.A. degree from U of A. He played English and Canadian rugby for 11 seasons.

In 1932 he signed a contract to teach mathematics and other subjects in the Vegreville High School. In the years which followed, he spent many happy and interesting hours coaching basketball, softball, baseball, curling, hockey and track and field. Flight Lieutenant of an excellent air cadet squadron of 56 members must also be mentioned. He was active in curling, golf, bowling, volleyball and square dancing. He was a member of the Kinsmen and K-40 clubs where he held all offices. He was also secretary of the Heather Curling Club and of the Vegreville Rangers Hockey Club. He is a Master Mason of St. John's Lodge #25. During these years he also led two adult classes in physical education and dancing. The classes were sponsored by the Dominion-Provincial Physical Education Recreation Program.

He moved up to vice-principal in 1936 and to principal in 1942. He taught in the old brick school, the Peter Svarich School and the new composite school. He, with the expert guidance from Mr. Henry Kolesar, superintendent of schools, and advice from Edmonton architects, planned the Composite High School. This took place following an examination of five other composite schools already in operation in the province. He was in charge of this school for two years, then decided to retire in 1967. This was followed by five years of substitute teaching. In 1967 he earned his second degree, B.Ed.

He fully retired in 1972. He and his wife, Barba-

ra, nee Stevens, think Vegreville is a good place for retirement in their own home. The people are friendly and the weather elements are enjoyable. All business necessities are close at hand and the town has all the amenities of a large city.

Time passes by travelling, visiting, gardening, reading and playing games.

Every once in a while there is a real joy in having the pleasure of meeting a former student whether it be at the house, on the street or wherever, and having heart-felt reminiscences.

Strychaluk, Franciszko and Paranka **by Alex Duk**

In 1901 young Franciszko Josefa Strychaluk and his wife, Paranka (nee Hawryluk), decided to emigrate to a new country — anticipating freedom and prosperity in their new homeland — Canada. Franciszko (Franko) and wife were born in a village near Brody, Western Ukraine, which was under Austrian rule. He was 33 years of age at the time.

The couple decided to homestead in the area east of Vegreville, known as New Kiew, on a quarter-section of land — NW 36-53-13-W4.

Their first home was a two-roomed mud-plas-



New home of Franciszko and Josefa Strychaluk, built in 1915. Model T Ford in foreground.



At right the first home (originally thatched), and the portable motor and chopper still in use in 1925, owned by Franciszka and Kazic Strychaluk.



The first class in Krasne School built in 1911.



Franciszka, Paranka and son Antoshko Strychaluk, about 1920.



Franciszka and son Kazic Strychaluk, 1925. Kazic has his first suit at 21 years of age.

tered log house with a thatched roof. In this home the children were born and raised. The first child — a son, Kazic, was born in 1904. Then three daughters came: Stephania, born in 1905, who at the age of 17 years was wed to Clementius Duk in 1922; second daughter Hanka, born in 1907, was married to Andrew Cherneski; the third daughter Uscka (Josie), born in 1909, was wed to Ivan Juba. The youngest child, a son named Antoshko, born in 1912, passed away in 1929 while attending high school. Kazic married Jessie Kopiak in 1935, and in 1960 moved to Edmonton where they now reside.

Franciszko and his wife retired to Vegreville in 1935. He passed away in 1939, at the age of 70. Paranka lived to the age of 75 years and passed away in 1950.

Stuart, Alex and Irene **by John and Pearl Stuart**

Alex Stuart (Oleska Szczur) was born in Austria in 1880. He sailed from Hamburg, Germany, on the S. S. Italia and arrived in Halifax on June 3, 1898. All the passengers were destined for Winnipeg. Throughout his trip, he was accompanied by his father Stephan 53 and his mother Witka 40, his brother Josef 13, Hrynko (Harry) 11 and Anna 2 years. Upon their arrival in Winnipeg, they decided to go further west and eventually settled in the Mundare area. Here the youngest daughter Mary was born.

Alex Stuart married Irene Kondratiuk on Febru-



Alex and Irene Stewart at their home on the farm near Mundare, 1938.



John and Frank Stuart at their farm near Mundare, 1939.

ary 22, 1903. Irene was born in the Ukraine in 1884. She came to Canada in 1897 at the age of 13 and her family settled near Mundare. They were one of the earliest families to settle in the Mundare area. Alex and Irene had eleven children: Mary, Mike, Anne, John, Peter, Alex, Nick, Rose, Elizabeth, Frank and Kay.

John, the second oldest son, was born in Krakow, August 29, 1909. Krakow was located north of Mundare. He attended Paraskevia School which was located on their farm seven miles north of Mundare. In his youth John and his brothers challenged many school areas to a fun-game of baseball. As John grew up he continued to farm and help his parents. To supplement the family income, John and his brother Nick left home in 1943. They found employment in a sawmill near Vilna. In 1945 John's father and mother, Alex and Irene Stuart, bought two quarters of land from Nick Drozdowich in the Vegreville area (E ½-14-51-15). At this time John decided to return home and farm with his parents.

I, Pearl Stuart, was born March 12, 1924, at Borszczow (Borschiw), Alberta. My parents Harry and Nancy Suchy had sixteen children: Paul, Annie, Mary, Lena, Peter, Clara, Julia, Carol, Frances, Jessie, Pat, John, Steve, Bessie, Pearl and Dimmie. I walked two miles to Togo School. When the snow came, we took the sleigh. My mother died when I was six. I was the youngest girl in the family. I had to do my share of work with my brothers and sisters in order to make things easier for our father. My father passed away in 1941. With most of my brothers and



John Stuart with enclosed cutter. About 1940.

sisters married, I had to take over the household duties and look after my three brothers Steve, John, and Dimmie.

I married John Stuart and we farmed with his parents. His father, Alex, passed away March 31, 1959, at the age of 79 and his mother passed away April 28, 1959, at the age of 75.

John and I have four children. Albert was born February 22, 1946. His grade one teacher, in the Old Vegreville School, was Neil Cassidy. The following year 1952, the school was closed due to declining enrollments. He completed his education in Vegreville, travelling throughout the years on the school bus. Albert is presently farming with us.

Clarence Harry was born August 26, 1950. He went to school in Vegreville. His university education began at Bozeman, Montana, and was completed at the University of Alberta. He graduated with a degree in Science. Clarence is presently working in Edmonton for Hardy and Associates. He married Christine Julia Chaney on September 2, 1978. Christine works for North West Trust.

Linda Patricia was born March 19, 1952. She attended school at Vegreville and completed her teaching degree at the University of Alberta. She has taught continuously in Stony Plain. Linda married Edward Arnold Sanford on August 13, 1977. They live in Stony Plain and Arnold works in Spruce Grove.

Robert Allen John was born September 18, 1959.

He completed his education in Vegreville. Robert is living at home and is presently employed with the Environmental Centre Construction in Vegreville.

Stuparek Family

Born in 1901, Bill Stuparek came from Austria with his parents to the Inland area where their nearest neighbors were the Paranich family. Coincidentally, about fifty years later, their grandchildren, Gary Stuparek and Patricia Paranich, met and were married. When his parents died suddenly, Bill was raised partly in the Boys' Home in Vegreville and then was taken under the wing of Dr. Arthur for a few years. When his older brother, Mike, was killed in W W I, young Bill, only sixteen, joined the army, determined to "fix those guys over there". After the war Bill returned to Vegreville where he worked in a machine shop for a Mr. Burgess for a while. In 1926 he married Ida Ulmer whose family had moved here about 1922. Ida's father, Chris Ulmer, threshed with John Forcade with a steam outfit all around this



Bill and Ida Stuparek, 1925.



Watching a ball game — public school grounds, about 1924.

district. Ulmer also worked in the Prince Edward Hotel for Louis Milner and his brother-in-law, Presma. Ida worked for the Presma family, and nearly lost her job when she went on a long-awaited date against her employer's wishes. (In those days, maids had few rights and less hours off.) Ida remembers that her first boyfriend was Dan Howe who later married May Stevens.

Bill and Ida Stuparek lived the rest of their lives in Vegreville, Bill working for Canadian Utilities for many years, then starting his own electrical wiring company; this first big job was the wiring of the Third houses. His son, Russell, began his wiring apprenticeship at fourteen and continued to work with his father for some years. Bill also sharpened skates for every hockey player in the vicinity. Being a great sports fan, he ardently cheered for our side. His first interest was baseball and he played that game for years with one team or another. Then he became an expert umpire and was a fixture at local tournaments in the '30's and '40's. Both Bill and Ida were long involved with Legion work. Among other tasks, they ran the Legion booth at the Fair several times, working with such old-timers as Sandy and Mae Patch. Ida is a charter member of the Ladies' Auxiliary having joined when Mrs. J. S. Reid was president. Bill died in 1965 and Ida now lives comfortably in the Legion Block near her good friend Mary Bourget.

The four Stuparek children all attended school and were involved in community life here, but all have since moved to other parts. Russell married Charlotte Horton and they live at Sherwood Park. Kenneth and Elizabeth (Duke) live in Edmonton; Carole and Dale Eccleston are at Fort Saskatchewan; Gary and Pat (Paranich) live in Ottawa.

Suddaby Family — 1898-1969

by Amy (Gimby) Suddaby

The first Suddaby to live in Canada came from Yorkshire, England. He spent a few years in Pennsylvania, U.S.A. where he married, then migrated to Victoria County, Ontario. The name Suddaby is derived from the old English Abbeys, meaning South Abbey.

The rugged life of the Ontario bush country proved too strenuous for the English-bred aristocrat. He left an only son, James William, and his riding suit that he wore to follow the hounds in England. His widow married a Mr. MacIntyre and they raised two boys and two girls. The boys, Dr. Wilbur MacIntyre and Malcolm, were prominent citizens of Edmonton in the early days.

James William Suddaby married Rebecca Charlotte Nicholas and they became the parents of six boys and one girl, living near the little village of



The stacks that were burned in the Trunk fire, on Peter Suddaby's homestead, 1910.



First car (Ford) in the Aplomb district — owned by Howard Suddaby. At the wheel is Amy Gimby — teacher at Aplomb School. In 1917 she married Howard Suddaby.

Burnt River, Ontario. In 1898 they came West to Edmonton, N.W.T., with the family Peter, Howard, William, Maggie, Ernest and little Thomas to live on McKernnan's farm. Edwin Allen, after spending a time in the West, B.C. and Montana, settled in Thunder Bay (Port Arthur). The boys, besides working on the farm, worked in the bush and on the C.N. railroad coming West.

Father Jim was busy improving his herd of Short-horn cattle — a project that his son and grandson William have continued — and growing prize oats. Small sheaves of oats were sent to the Immigration Offices in Europe to show the fertility of the soil in the West.

In 1902 father Suddaby homesteaded in the Vegreville District, taking N.E. ¼ and Howard the S.E. ¼ of Sec. 28., Bill took the N.W. and Peter the N.E. ¼ of Sec. 22 all west of the 4th meridian. Later Ernest homesteaded the S.W. ¼ of 22. All homesteads were in Township 50, Range 13 and west of the fourth Meridian.

In 1904 the family moved to the homestead, driving the slow-moving cattle.

Mother Becky sat on a spring seat high up on the

wagon, through wind, rain and mosquitoes for two weeks as the horses pulled the load through slough and mud. Dr. Rush told me in 1931 he remembered the Sunday the Suddaby cattle grazed on a hill near Old Vegreville on their way to the homestead.

In 1905 the railroad came through Lavoy and the Suddaby boys found work. Peter worked on the road-bed, and Lydia with little Pearl cooked for the gang of workers. Bill went to the Roundhouse at Vermilion to work for his engineer's papers. Howard worked on the grade or hauled provisions for the teams or workmen. The money they earned bought machinery and wire for fencing the little crops. No real disaster met the Suddaby family until 1910 when the Grand Trunk fire swept the community leaving some families homeless and burning all Peter's stacked grain despite every effort to save it; however, the buildings were saved.

A big cement foundation and bank barn was built on J. W.'s farm in 1915 and the first school in the community was erected with him as the first Chairman. Sadness was brought to the family when Thomas was stepped on by his pony and killed.

Bill brought home his bride, Roberta McLochlin, from B.C. in 1907. He had built a little cottage and a red barn on his homestead. The new school brought teachers to the settlement and wives for the bachelors. There were many families and Peter's family now numbered four: Pearl, William, Margaret and Bessie. Howard married the second Aplomb "school marm", Amy E. Gimby whose parents lived at Lamont. They raised six children: Reginald, Harold, who spent five years overseas, Islay, Faith, Roy and Foster. Reg. and Margaret (Page) raised seven girls and four boys to carry the name Suddaby on and on. Roy has four boys; Islay has a girl and a boy; Foster has one girl.

In 1918 all the crops in the district were wiped out by a killing frost the 22nd of July. The Suddabys planted again with faith in the country. They faced



Ernest and Elizabeth Suddaby 45th wedding anniversary, 1967.

calamity again in 1920 with the long hard winter — a match for the winter of '06 and '07. Most of the farmers faced a debt to keep their stock alive. Food was shipped in from the East and doled out to the cattlemen. The sad stories would fill a book.

In 1922 Ernest brought home his bride, a former Aplomb school teacher, Elizabeth Stewart from Beaver Lake, to live in the cottage Bill had built and Ernest purchased.

In 1927 the Suddaby family mourned the passing of Lydia after a very short illness. The young family were left motherless in times not very prosperous.

The families met the depression with tightened belts and strong resolutions. 1929 was a dry year. In '28 Howard had built a new house and the baby Roy came in '29. Mother Amy had a very serious operation in the spring of thirty. In July, 1931, Foster and



The house Amy Suddaby came to as a bride, 1917.



Simon Place and Howard Suddaby, both homesteaders in 1902. Simon died at 97 years of age, and Howard at 92. Photo about 1970.

mother came home from Lamont Hospital and August 5th all the district was hailed, not a window left on the west side of the houses, not a spear of crop or grain. The neighbors in other districts were liberal with vegetables and seed grain.

The children of the two Suddaby families got some advanced education to take their place in the world.

Elizabeth and I, Amy, are facing widowhood as best we can. She is in her home and I am in Vialta Lodge, Viking, Alberta.

Suddaby, Mrs. Amy **by Carol Maxwell**

Meet Mrs. Amy Suddaby, the proud possessor of a statistical family tree that traces her father's side of the family back to England in 1694. Her mother's family had been traced back to Roman Times in England. With firm roots like these, it is no surprise to find a personality of warmth and sparkle, spinning a captivating story, spanning 86 years.

Amy Elizabeth Suddaby (nee Gimby) was born in southern Manitoba, in 1892. At eleven months, she moved with her parents to North Dakota where her father did carpentry work and with the family's help, maintained a homestead. School in North Dakota lasted only four months of the year, so it was a welcome change when the Gimby family moved to a homestead near Yellow Grass, Saskatchewan, in 1902. Here, the education-minded Amy could attend school for better than ten months of the year.

Land here at the new homestead was very fertile, but rich too in its "cache" of stones. These were picked by hand in what must have seemed a never-ending succession, but they provided the building blocks for the huge three-storey house which remains intact. Several trees were planted around the house, giving it a different aspect today than it had sitting on the bald prairie in the early 1900's.

While stones were abundant, water was scarce and had to be hauled for livestock as well as household use. Five attempts to drill a well proved futile and nearby lakes were too alkaline to drink.

Amid stone-picking, water-fetching and other sundry jobs befitting this way of life, Amy completed her Grade Eight at Yellow Grass School. She then boarded out in Regina to take her high schooling. Due to a shortage of teachers, however, she was early recruited to that position at age seventeen. After teaching for eighteen months, she returned to complete her high school and then went to Normal School for formal teacher training.

After Amy spent two years in the classroom, the Gimby family moved again, this time to a homestead

near Lamont. The following year, 1914, after attending Normal School in Camrose, she taught at Duhamel, there instructing the descendants of the family who had established this first of settlements in the Battle River area.

Her next move was to Aplomb, a country school near Lavoy. There she taught for one year before marrying in 1917. She did not return to the classroom until her six children were full grown, but did however, give her daughter instruction in Grade Nine when it was not possible to have her board out. She later returned to give ten years of service to her chosen profession before retiring at 65.

Mrs. Suddaby returned to University for a summer session prior to her retirement, to take courses in writing and psychology. It was as she puts it "as if I'd never been away; it all came back", and she topped her class in written work.

This love for writing is much alive today. She has written her family history and a fictitious novel, as well as a number of shorter chronicles of her experiences at an early age. Some of the latter have been published by the Western Producer. She also enjoys writing articles on subjects for which she does research.

A dress, in its final stages of completion, hanging on her closet door, revealed another of her pastimes, as did the crocheting on the chair and the books beneath the window.

I left Mrs. Suddaby that afternoon with mixed feelings: somewhat embarrassed with myself for often frittering away my time; but also a bit elated for having shared this time with her.

Sullivan, George **by George Sullivan**

George William Sullivan, fourth son of John and Christina Sullivan, was born at Ranfurly on the farm on June 15, 1913. A blue-eyed, brown-haired boy — he attended Ranfurly School, walking there each day and to church on Sunday. Later he attended Birch Hill. Living in the Ranfurly district all his life, he married Bonnie Davis in the year 1947, and they lived on the family farm. Farming all his life until 1978 when he retired, he still has abundant interest in the farm. George and Bonnie have five sons and two daughters.

Sullivan, John James (1876-1978) **by Frances (Fannie Sullivan) Baker**

John James Sullivan was born June 2, 1876, in Dublin, Ireland. In his teens he emigrated to U.S.A., settling in Boston, Mass. where he was employed as coachman for a doctor. Then he apprenticed for a

baker. There he met and married Christina McDonald, a native of Summerside, Prince Edward Island. While there they raised three children: Mary, Harold and Jack. In 1908 they came to Alberta and settled on N.E. 10-51-12-W4 about a mile and a half from Ranfurly.

Here in Alberta four more children were born, namely: Frances (Fannie), Alex, George and Douglas. They moved around to several farms for a while and then bought the N.E. 16-51-12-W4th about one-half mile from their original home.

My first teacher was William Sprowle. I remember every morning before classes we all had to sing O Canada before we sat down. We had quite a few different teachers those days. One I remember was



Sullivan's first car, Model T Ford. Doug Sullivan standing on running board, 1923.



John J. Sullivan and his outfit of horses cutting grain, 1924.



Ranfurly class, Labor Day, 1925.

Miss Matheson who always took care of us on rainy days and made sure we had our coats buttoned up properly.

The year 1918 was the year of the flu; all of us contracted it except our Mother, who had quite a time taking care of us and doing all the chores. Mr. and Mrs. Montgomery, our neighbors to the west, came everyday, bringing with them our groceries and we never forgot their kindness. Douglas, the youngest, was born soon after this and made the family complete. I remember Dad telling us how he worked in the wintertime hauling logs on the Pembina River west of Edmonton.

Dad served on several committees. He was a long-time member of the school board. Our first Presbyterian Minister was W. Campbell from Lavoy. There was no church at that time and services were held in the school where we all attended regularly.

In 1925 the United Church was formed and our first minister was W. McLeod, also of Lavoy.



Ranfurly Girls' Basketball team. Team consisted of Frances Sullivan, Florence Jones, Minnie Pomrenk, Edna Williams, Phyllis Montgomery, Lexie and Muriel MacNaughton and Josephine Maloney, 1925.

When I reached grade four, Miss May Steele, better known now as Mrs. Wagar, was our teacher. We all enjoyed her very much. She was very fond of music and organized a lot of concerts, spelling bees and sports. We had quite a good basketball team at that time, playing most often against Lavoy. We always had a nice picnic after school closed for summer holidays.

At home we were all kept busy. Mary and I helped Mother in the house, while the boys helped Dad. In the early twenties Dad bought our first Model T. Ford from Joe Austin, who afterwards told me I was the fastest driver in the district.

Mother passed away in 1927 after a lengthy illness and we all missed her so much. The same year we moved south on the Charlie Rice place and left Harold to look after the homestead. In 1934 I met and married Albert Baker. We had one daughter Barbara, who, after graduating from Grade Twelve at Composite High School, joined the staff of the A.G.T. Six years later she married Duane Bogstie who works in

the oil fields as a tool push. They have a lovely daughter, Jennifer, and she is a joy.

Svarich, Andrew

It was a happy and sad Easter in the year 1900 when John and Mary Svarich arrived in Canada in Winnipeg, Manitoba. They came from the village of Tulowa, county of Sniatyn, province of Galicia, Ukraine, which at that time was under the rule of Austria.

They brought with them their family of seven children, two sons and five daughters, and within a short time the family settled on a homestead northwest of Vegreville.

Their oldest son, Peter, had finished University in the old country, and the younger son, Andrew, who was born October 1, 1886, was thirteen years old then and most anxious to further his education. No school existed in their vicinity at that time so he stayed home and helped his parents on the farm. He had concluded two years of Gymnasia in the old country. In



Wedding of the first Ukrainian M.P. in Canada. (l. to r.) — Natalia Michaylyshyn, Mr. Michael Luchkovich, Nykyforuk, Sophie Nykyforuk-Luchkovich, Josephine Nykyforuk. Back row: Dr. Boykowich, Phyllis Nykyforuk, Olga Nykyforuk, Dr. Faust Gowda, Jan. 26, 1929.



First time in Vegreville — January 22, 1961. The raising of Ukrainian Flag to commemorate the proclamation of Independence of Ukraine. Front row: D. Sawchuk, Mrs. Smook, Peter Svarich, Stella Svarich, Andrew Svarich, J. Tymchuk, Wm. Smook. Second row: J. Kuzyk, Mrs. Aronetz, A. Bialuk, Metro Kubrak. Third row: Dr. Onuferko, Wm. Laschuk, A. Gordey, J. Shpur. Last row: S. Killick, Mrs. Anna Pidruchny.

Canada he was able to attend only evening classes for three months in Vegreville at the Ruthenian Training School in 1907, where he learned the English language quickly, having picked up some of it in his travels while looking for work.

In 1905 Andrew left home in search of work in large cities. He worked as a section-hand, on extra gangs, in masonry, felled trees for logs, and dug ditches in the city of Calgary, Alberta. The longest time he was employed was in Trail, B.C., at the Consolidated Mining and Smelting Co. where he operated a motor engine for hauling rocks and ore.

Andrew returned to Vegreville in 1907, worked as a clerk in a store of Clements and Son, in which he was employed till 1910.

In 1909 he joined the Vegreville Fire Brigade. At present 1977 he was the last living member of the original Vegreville Fire Brigade.

The Vegreville Chamber of Commerce presented him with life membership in 1967.

In 1910 the National Co-operative Company organized in Vegreville and Andrew was appointed its manager. The firm thrived and prospered. By 1917

its business expanded to branches at Innisfree, Chipman, Lamont, Andrew, Smoky Lake, and Radway, with Vegreville as its head office.

In 1920 Directors of the National Co-operative Company (most of whom were from Edmonton) decided to move the head office to Edmonton.

Andrew opposed this move and consequently resigned as its manager, as he was already involved in ownership of the Dobbin's Block. As a printer to whom printer's ink is an obsession, so, to Andrew, store business was an obsession.

By the end of 1920 Andrew again was in store business in Vegreville (named A. Svarich & Co.) in partnership with his two brothers-in-law, Elias and Nick Porayko.

This store was in operation till 1930 when due to the crisis of those times, but mostly because of inadequate capital to carry on, the business folded up in bankruptcy.

In 1909 Andrew had married Parania Porayko, a former old country teacher from his own village of Tulowa, who arrived in Canada in 1907. By 1930 they had a large family of nine children, two sons and seven daughters. The youngest daughter died at the age of sixteen after an operation in 1941. Andrew was faced with great responsibility; children must continue their education.

Money was scarce. Jobs were even more scarce. He worked at whatever jobs were available at that time for nearly ten years.

Finally by the end of the 1930's he took on the agency of Watkin's Products and in his old jalopy drove all over the district selling these products. Simultaneously he rented a small store space from Tom Casson, where, besides Watkins Products, he sold fruit, confectionery, etc. It was named Corona



Fortieth wedding anniversary of Andrew and Parania Svarich, 1949. Seated: Vera Fedoruk and sons Nestor and Dennis, Andrew and Parania Svarich, Helen Resler and sons Fred and Lenny, Stella Porayko. Standing: Jacob Davediuk, Hafia Yanishewsky, Mrs. Davediuk, Peter Svarich, Lena Porayko, Nick Porayko, Mrs. Salamandick, Sam Gregory, Annie Gregory, Mrs. Mary Svarich, Wm. Salamandick.



Family of Andrew Svarich, 1963 (l. to r.) — Roman Svarich, Helen Resler, Nadia McKean, Vera Fedoruk, (Father) Andrew Svarich, Olga Minkensky, Nataika McConnell, Staffka Makofka, Nestor Svarich. In front — Mrs. Stella Svarich (his second wife).

wife's widowed sister-in-law, Stacia Porayko (nee Melnyk) whose husband Elias Porayko died in 1941. (Stacia had also been a schoolteacher. She was one of the first Ukrainian girls to take her Normal School training in Camrose, in 1916, after teaching on "Permits" previously).

In Stacia, Andrew found a thrifty and frugal helpmate, and life has been kind to them both.



Andrew Svarich and Orville Tebbutt, 1964. Andrew Svarich — the last living member of the original Vegreville Fire Brigade of 1909 under Fire Chief M. McInnis. Wm. Rogers took over as Fire chief in 1911, followed by Frank Allore in mid-forties. He was succeeded by Armand Mercier, and followed by Orville Tebbutt to present time — 1979.



Ukrainian (Ruthenian) Students organized evening classes to learn the English language, assembled at the home of Mr. Peter Svarich in 1907. First row (seated): Nicolas Cherniawsky, unknown, Steve Nykyforuk, unknown, S. Hrynyk, Odynsky. Middle row: Anna Buk-Farrel, unknown, Mrs. Sill, unknown, Dzuba, unknown, Mandrusiak, Steblyk. Back row: Pearl Soldan, Wm. Hucul, Andrew Svarich, unknown, Kitz, Lakusta, N. Charuk, Peter Teresio, Tomashevsky, Ilkiw, Hnidan.

Andrew was modest and quiet by nature. He was always active in community affairs and took various executive responsibilities since youth. In 1914 he was elected the first Ukrainian councillor in the Town of Vegreville and was returned two more times to the office.

When Elks Lodge organized in Vegreville he was their secretary-treasurer of several years.

From the time he settled in Vegreville he was interested and active in Ukrainian organizations, not only those in Canada, but also those in his beloved old country Ukraine. Most often he was designated to collect and forward donations collected for Chytalnia in his native village of Tulowa, for Ridna Shkola there, as well as for the Prosvita organization at its head office at Lwow. He was the secretary-treasurer of the Vegreville branch of Ruskiy Narodny Souz which organized soon after the turn of the century. He was also on the executive of the M. Sichynski

Chytalnia organization in Vegreville, as well as the secretary-treasurer for fourteen years of the National Hall in Vegreville after it was built in 1914.

When the Ukrainian Greek Orthodox Church organized in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, in December 1918, he was one of the active participants. In 1933 when the Ukrainian Greek Orthodox Parish organized in Vegreville he was on its executive, and later its head for a few years.

As his finances allowed him, Andrew always donated to worthy (and especially national) causes. He was a staunch member and shareholder of the P. Mohyla Institute of Saskatoon, a share-holder of the Ukrainian Voice, a donator to the Holy Trinity Cathedral in Winnipeg and Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Ottawa, and an endower of the St. John's Institute of Edmonton. Sus (Ukrainian Self-Reliance League of Canada), Tus (Ukrainian Self Reliance League — Male Only), Ukrainian Pioneers of Alberta Associa-



Employees of the National Co-operative Co. Ltd., 1918. Front row: Fred Pshyk, John Huzil, unknown. Second row: J. Showkoples, Frank Lemiski, Andrew Svarich, John Semeniuk, Dmetro Motyka. Third row: Czumer, Wm. Hryciuk, Romaniuk, Rose Chikaliuk, Elias Porayko, Steve Porayko, John Ruryk, Barbara Showkoples, Wm. Lewko.



Employees of National Co-operative Co. Ltd. (1912) (l. to r.): Harry Kostash, John Prymak, John Showkoples, Frank Lemiski, Andrew Svarich, J. Kinasevich.

tion, and Ukrainian Canadian Committee each received his fervent support financially and morally. In 1969 he was made a member of St. Andrew's Order of Winnipeg. In collections for these organizations he was always the one to encourage others to activity and the donations quota collected in Vegreville for the Ukrainian Canadian Committee and the Shevchenko Memorial in Winnipeg in 1961 went over the top partly due to his perseverance.

Andrew's large family is scattered across Canada. Only his youngest son, Nestor, is a University graduate in Geology. Five of the children are teachers by profession. As the older ones graduated and taught school each helped finance the next one. His second daughter Nadia (McKean) presently of Toronto, is also a music teacher having attained the degree of A.T.C.M. and L.R.S.M. by the time she completed her Normal School course before the Second World War.

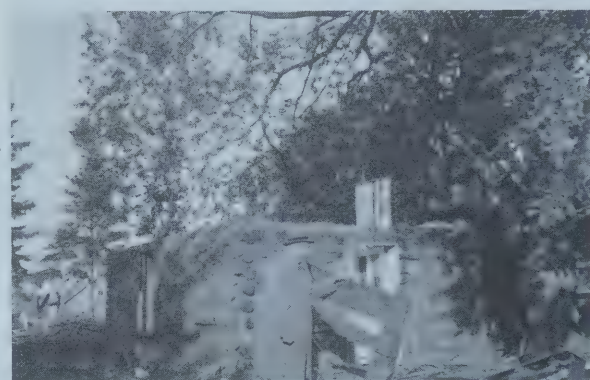
In the spring of 1943 she was "commandeered" by military authorities to become Bandmaster of the Canadian Women's Army Corps military band which was the only all-women's brass band in uniform in the British Empire. By the time the war ended the band had travelled in England, France, Holland, Belgium and Germany, after completing two trips across Canada.

All Andrew's children have married and he humorously observes that in his family he has his own League of Nations, for besides Ukrainian in-laws there are Scots, Irish, German and French.

Andrew liked to tell the story of how, when he



Camping in style at Birch Lake, Innisfree, Alberta — July, 1925. Elias Porayko and daughter Vera "the way it was".



Last of Peter's "Red" house. The old "Red" house is demolished — it was a favorite rendezvous in 1907 where Nick Cherniawsky used to teach Andrew Svarich and other boys to dance. It was at back of first home of Peter Svarich, presently where home of Mrs. Fuller is situated.

worked as a section-hand, he tried to learn to smoke only because the men scoffed at him and told him to wash the supper dishes while they smoked. But after a week's trial he quit because he was sorry to blow away in smoke his hard-earned money. He figured it was the money he saved by not smoking that paid for the home he bought when he married again in 1955.

"God was good to me and saved me from smoking," he observed, "but He punished me otherwise: Every one of my six daughters smokes!"

Teare, Charles and Ida by Ida Teare

We lived in Vegreville seven years and our children went to school there until 1930. We came to Vegreville from Big Valley. We had our first homestead twenty-five miles west of Didsbury, Alta. Our second homestead was at Big Valley. We left U.S.A. because we wanted land in Canada to homestead on and we lived on the land for five years.

Our children are Vera, Guy, Clarence, Helen, Hilda and John.

Five of our children went to Vegreville School. We lived on the Brown Place three miles north of Vegreville. We also attended church at Vegreville.

Our neighbors were the Hughstons, Shultz, Bruce, Gafka, Zieglers, Lank and Steel.

Recently my relatives gave me a surprise party on my 94th birthday and we had 68 guests. Many came from Calgary, as we lived there for forty years. I now reside in Seattle, Washington.

Hard Times

Ida Teare (Published in "Vegreville Observer" 1930).

The year 1930 we all will agree
It's really the worst we ever did see.
We lost all our money in farming and stocks
It's strange how we managed to survive all the shocks.

And it's hard, hard times.

Mr. Ellihill, Miss McKinley and Clifford Lee;
They teach in our school and we really can't see
Why the trustees should send them each a nice cheque,

When it's us poor people whose nerves are a wreck.

And it's hard, hard times.

Next, Dr. McPherson the worst of the lot,
Who says he will cure you for half you have got.
He says he will cure you for half you possess,
And then when you're dead he will sue for the rest.

And it's hard, hard times.

There's Kirkland and Hay, and Butler and Brown,
The only four merchants around our small town,
We always buy sugar and coffee and tea—
But the way we get stung, it's a pity to see.

And it's hard, hard times.

Next come "Teare", the baker whose bread we all know.

He claims it's good, but we really don't know.

He claims it's the best we can buy anywhere,

But when we cut it, we find it's just air.

And it's hard, hard times.

There's Eaton's and Kjareng and Bendiksen too.

They sell us some meat we hardly can chew.

If we kick or complain or make any row,

The next time they sell us the old family cow.

And it's hard, hard times.

There's Hulbert and Ewers and Campbell we're told,
They buy all the wheat at so much per load.

When the farmers get paid, they can't buy a stamp—
For they're grading their wheat all No. 4 damp.

And it's hard, hard times.

Now Joiness and Lillo and Woods all repair
Your car while you wait, and give you free air;
Then they put in the gas, and say, "Now there you are."

Just dig up the cash or you don't ride in your car.

And it's hard, hard times.

Then comes Mr. Cranston, our banker, you see;

If you need any money just try him and see.

To borrow a nickel you'll need a gold note.

We think now we're ready to give it a vote.

And it's hard, hard times.

Then comes the poor farmer, who toils on the land.

The wind fills his eyes with both dirt and sand.

He raised plenty of wheat, also barley and oats,

But the price is so punk that he can't pay his notes.

And it's hard, hard times.

There's the Woodland Creamery just out of town;
Cliff Heatherington runs it, he says cream is down.

The farmers all stare at their cheques with surprise,
When they see what they get, then tears fill their eyes.

And it's hard, hard times.

Next comes Mr. Greig, our lumberyard man.

He sells you some lumber if he possibly can.

He sells us enough for a house it is true,

But our money is all gone before we get through;

And it's hard, hard times.

Next Freeman, our hardware merchant in town;

Has marked all his wares ten per cent down,

But times are so hard we can't even buy pans

And now the poor man has to change all his plans.

And it's hard, hard times.

Next Muhus, "the barber" who is on Main Street,

He cuts their hair and shaves them so neat,

But the nickels and dimes are so hard to save

They can't really afford that Saturday night shave.

And it's hard, hard times.

Tetreault, Joseph Benoit

Co-founder of Old Vegreville in the North-West Territories (1894) by Fr. Georges Tetreau

Louis (born 1634) in St. Martin de Louis, France, was the first Tetreau to come to Canada, arriving at Trois Rivieres, Quebec in 1662. From the marriage of Louis Tetreau and Nathalie Landeau are descended all the families that bear the name today — both in the United States and Canada.

Joseph Benoit Tetreau(lt) was born in Ste. Angele, Quebec on Feb. 26, 1858 (9th generation in Canada). He reached college level in Marieville, which was above-average education then. At age sixteen he moved to Cohoes, New York State, and worked seven years in factories. At age twenty-four he married his first cousin Amilda Denise Tetreault,



Benoit Tetreau family, 1907. Back row (l. to r.) — Ruby, Melene, Albert, Joseph, Phylis, Fred, William. Middle row (l. to r.) — Frank, Delia, Benoit (father), Amilda (mother). Front row (l. to r.) — Alexis, Victoria, Rose. Born later but not in picture were George and Angeline. The first 6 were born at Old Vegreville site.

daughter of Francois Tetreault and Vitalina Poulin on Jan. 20, 1883, in Cohoes, N.Y. The next year the couple moved to Kansas City; Dad was clerk in a candy store. In Concordia he farmed eight years, but dry growing seasons and grasshoppers led him to move to Western Canada in 1896 with our uncle, Joseph Poulin. The three families of 1894 grew rapidly in the Birch Creek valley in Townships 51 and 52, Range 14 and 15, W4th. The RNWMP census of 1895 recorded a total of 88 persons.

Ben Tetreault bought two adjacent quarter-sections for his older sons, five to six years later as they came of age. He also bought several lots in the new village, including one across the street from the church, on which he built a two-storey frame house in 1907.

Ben Tetreau worked many years for the Territorial government as land locator and interpreter. He would guide and/or drive prospective buyers to the quarter-section markers. These steel posts, protruding about seven inches, were identified by num-

ber, etc., with four three-foot square holes, ten feet apart. Mother told me that Dad always used the same grey mare and pretty soon it was the mare who located the second, third and fourth steel pegs of the quarter-section. The mare would travel in a straight line on the prairie for so many minutes and then stop. Then the men would walk around in the tall grass till they found a square hole, and then the steel peg with the markings. Dad trusted his grey mare to know how far they had travelled from the last peg and in the right direction! The mare was almost always right.

Dad died prematurely at age forty-seven of pneumonia in the year 1913. I was only five years old and hardly knew him. All I remember is that he brought home some candy-coated peanuts for us kids. They are still on the market.

My father was well considered in New Vegreville. He was owner of several houses for rent as well as Poulin's store on the corner of Main Street opposite and east of today's post office. The first street west of the old fire station bore his name —



Philias and Wilfred Tetreau, hauling grain away from the threshing machine, 1908.

Tetreau Street — but has since been changed to a number. He was town councillor for several years. The family lived in a new two-storey house on the corner of the main street of French Town, across from the Catholic Church.

What happened to the Tetreau family since its arrival in Vegreville in 1894?

At the time of arrival there were already six children born in the United States, all under ten years of age.

MELINDA, the oldest (1884) later married Emile Belisle in 1905, lived on a farm three miles south — raised two girls and a boy. She died of the flu in 1920.

ALBERT (1885) died six months after his marriage in 1908, to Yvonne Morin, leaving one child — a daughter, Albertine (Mrs. Ephrem Langlois).

The next child was JOSEPH (1888), the father of the present Tetreau families living in Vegreville. His wife was Albertine Dubuc who bore him 16 children, and at the time of her death in 1970 there were 72 grandchildren. Joe died in 1951 of cancer. (history of their family in another part of the book)

PHILIAS (May, 1890) today still a bright and



Family Outing. Back row — Suzanne Benoit, Bernard Dubuc, Ella Dubuc, Wilfred Dubuc, Yvon Benoit, Terry Riley, Albert Dubuc, Rene Dubuc, Louise Dubuc, Rose Tetreau. Second row — Ovilla Dubuc, Augustine Dubuc, Yvonne Dubuc, Arselia Dumond, Melina Dubuc, Albertine Tetreau, Phyllis Dubuc. Front row — Maurice Dubuc, Eugene Poulin, Rejeanne Benoit, Jeannette Poulin, Diane Dubuc, Joey Dubuc, Cecile Tetreau and far bottom right, Donna Dubuc, 1950, Experimental Farm.

“young” man of 89 years, is separated from his wife. He lives in Vancouver and is a welcomed grandfather in the homes of his married children in Vancouver and Chilliwack. He still flies to Edmonton every summer for ten to fifteen days with his relatives.

FRED (April, 1892) is 87 years old. He has survived four heart attacks and lives peacefully with his wife Margaret on a Wetaskiwin flower-farm.

RUBY, born in 1893 in Concordia, Kansas, was the last “American”. She returned to U.S.A. and worked in Sacramento, California, and married there. Two sons were born to Hubert Stomp and Ruby: Bernard in 1925 and Michael in 1938. Neither is married as of this date.

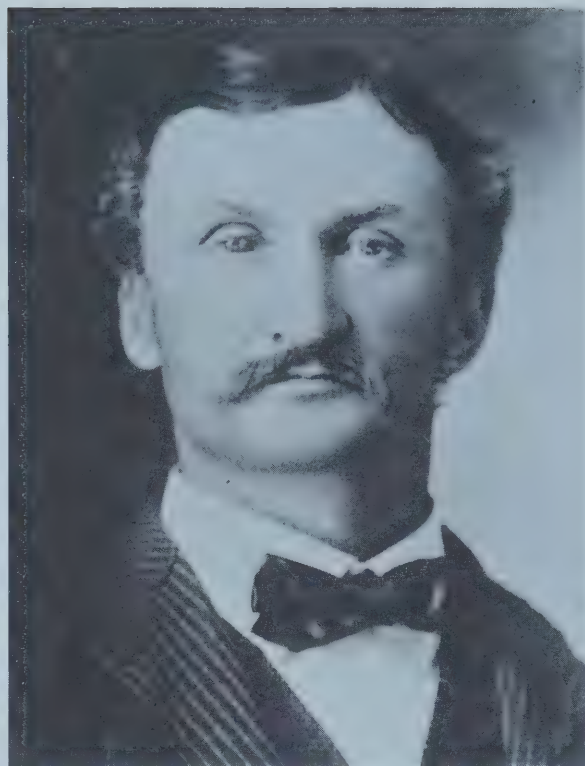
BILL was the first to be born a Canadian in February, 1895. Mother told me a story about Bill's birth which must be told. During the long months of pregnancy, the only fresh meat to be had readily was wild rabbits, which the boys snared with copper wire in the bush. These rabbits were held by the hind feet and carried home . . . with those long ears dragging in the snow. Mother had to cook these rabbits for supper every night and she became so distracted by those long ears that she was convinced that her unborn child — Bill — would have this defect. When he was delivered and the midwife came from the kitchen with these words, “Milda, here is your child, a beautiful boy!” Mother cried out, “Stop! does he have long ears?” When Mrs. Lambert assured her of the contrary, Mother then said, “All right, bring him to me!” Bill in his late life (1927) married Annette Tessier; they had only one child, Richard. Bill died accidentally in Detroit and his wife Annette died in 1978 in her 81st year, of a heart attack.

The eighth child MARIE DELIA (1897) later married Raoul Blais and they had one girl, then four boys. The Blais moved from Montreal, where Jeanette was born in 1916 and Dollard in 1918, to Tampa, Florida, then to Daytona Beach where Michael (1919) and Bernard (1922) and Joe Jr. (1923) were born and are living today.

FRANK, born in 1899, was a Model T fan and a master mechanic. He married Bertha Dahlem, a Vegreville girl, in 1918. Two girls, then two boys, blessed their home and are living mostly on the U.S. Washington west coast.

ALEXIS had a twin brother, still-born on January, 31/03. He went to St. John College (1916-21) to study his classics in preparation for the priesthood. He was ordained a priest in June, 1927 and spent his missionary zeal as an Oblate, mostly in Saskatchewan. He died of a heart attack on August 1/60, aged 58 years.

VICTORIA, born in November, 1904, named



Joseph Benoit Tetreau 1859-1913. Co-founder of settlement of Vegreville in 1894.

after the Queen, later married Walter Lawrence, a barber, in 1929 and they had two girls and two boys. Both are in their 79's and are living quietly in Mannville, Alberta.

ROSE-ANNA, born in 1906, was a schoolteacher who married a farmer, Donald Hood of Gibbons, in 1932. Three boys and two girls graced their table. Husband Donald died of a brain tumor, Rose sold the farm and went back to teaching and moved to Edmonton to become a substitute mother for me.

I am GEORGES, born May, 1908, afflicted with a mild case of polio as a child. I followed in the footsteps of my brother Alexis, whom I never really knew. I went to St. John College in 1923 — he left in 1921 — and I was sent by my Oblate superior to Rome, Italy, to pursue my philosophical and theological studies, 1928-35. I was ordained a priest there in 1933 and returned to St. John College in Edmonton in September, 1935 for 28 years of teaching, with a three-year interruption in 1950-53. I quit teaching in 1967 and moved to Bonnyville school and parish. There I enjoyed nine years of a good life, then transferred to North Battleford Notre Dame Parish (August, 1977 to January, 1978). In four months I was four times in hospital, then twice more in Spokane with heart attacks. Now I am convalescing in Saint Albert at the Grandin Home.



Four generations of Tetreau family, 1944. Amilda Tetreau (seated), Joseph Tetreau (her son), Alphonse Tetreau (Joseph's son), Mary Louise (Alphonse's daughter).

The youngest of the family, ANGELINE, “little angel” was born in 1911. She remained close to mother until she was called by the Lord to become His Spouse in the Congregation of the Sisters of the Assumption. She pronounced her first vows of religion in 1933 and became a teacher, specializing in Home Economics and Business Courses. She was in turn Superior of different communities and of Assumption Academy. Today she is retired — after forty-two years of service to our Alberta youth. Surely she deserves a rest.

Do You Know? Eye-Witness Recollections by Philias and Georges Tetreault

The first church built by Adolph Dubuc was built in 1904 in Old Vegreville. The church in the new town was built so as to block the avenue going east to the hospital and was in use from 1904 to 1954. There was a resident priest from the year 1904, Father Auguste Bernier. Within the year Father Jean Garnier came as assistant. The first building used as a hospital was the priests’ home or rectory. Meanwhile in

1911 the large brick hospital was being built across the river and formally opened that fall.

Arthur Poulin, aged maybe ten, was milk cow herder . . . when they strayed too far. It was in late November and the nights were very cold. Arthur found himself too far from home to return that night so he slept or dozed on his horse’s back that night and the succeeding night. He ate wild berries when he could find some. On the third day he came home with his stray cows, less concerned than his parents and neighbours.

The name “Vegreville” is the family name of a contemporary Oblate missionary; first name Valentin; buried in the Oblate plot in St. Albert. He died in 1903. An Oblate missionary, Fr. Bouline, from Saddle Lake Indian Reserve, normally stopped every two months or so, stayed overnight and said Mass in the Tetreault home in Old Vegreville after hearing confessions the night before. These missionaries assured religious services either from Ft. Saskatchewan or as travelling Oblates. Fr. Comrie OMI, baptized by brother Alexis Tetreault on his way to Cold Lake Reserve and registered the act there. It took some looking to find the original authentic copy! Fr. Valentin Vegreville (1829) is the author of several books in the Indian language — Assiniboine . . . including a French-Assiniboine Dictionary. At the time he ministered to the natives west of Lake St. Anne.

Ben Tetreau . . . Dad dropped the “It” on his name as far back as 1890 in Kansas, according to his older son Philias. He adds that Dad was a poor man, and in the face of need, exchanged his gold watch chain for a pregnant sow. He also traded his wife’s prize sewing machine for a milk cow. With six and seven children in the home, milk had become a must. Soon there were several animals around. The horses were bought and herded in from North Battleford.

The first house built by Ben Tetreau was a log cabin, 18x24, covered with a sod roof, which leaked during and after heavy rainstorms. I remember Mother telling me how she hung the oilcloth table-cover over the baby’s crib to protect it from dripping water.

The Edward Dennis family seems to have been the only family of English origin in the immediate Vegreville neighborhood in 1894. Mrs. Dennis was a kind neighbor; she appears in Mr. Theodor Theroux’s historical diary before and at the funeral of a very young girl, Elmira Houle, to help and offer food for the whole community present at this first sad event (June, 1894).

Some unforeseen dangers called for ingenuity. For example, in 1896, the dry year, a prairie fire swept across the land to the horizon. The solution? . . . Dad backfired around the buildings so that the

prairie fire had no fuel to burn, and so it swept around and on.

I remember brother Joe telling me of a similar situation — a prairie fire — while on the road with Dad on a return trip with supplies from Edmonton. The men backfired in front of them and then drove the nervous teams onto the burnt area. The horses, unhitched, were tied to the wheels and their heads covered with burlap bags so that they were blinded. Then the men and boys crawled under the wagons, coughing and choking, until the holocaust swept around and past them.

The Canadian Northern Railway decided to bypass Old Vegreville and chose a pleasant spot five miles north, close to the Vermilion River. It meant moving a church, a school, two banks, two stores, a licensed hotel, a restaurant, a blacksmith shop, a real estate office, a medical doctor and a post office. At one time there were as many as twelve homes on wheels scattered along the prairie leading to the “station”. The two banks had a race to see which one would get to New Vegreville first. People were placing bets on them.

Philias also remembered a serious mishap in early winter, when the ice on Beaver Lake was strong enough to support passing sleighs. One particular time the ice at one spot was weak and the horses first, then the sleigh, fell through. All that part of the lake had a shallow bottom; there was perhaps three feet of water. So the men jumped into the water to unload the sleigh, especially of dry and perishable foods, etc. Then the hardest part was to break the ice toward the nearest high spot, to get both the team and the empty sleigh out of the water onto solid ice once more. I suspect the weather was very mild in the daytime, as not one of the travellers seems to have suffered from the forced bath.

Our first school teachers lasted a short time, including Theodore Theroux, writer of a respectable chronicle on the origin of Vegreville. Phil says that the next teacher, a male, had no authority whatever over his twenty-odd pupils of all ages. So he was sent scampering. However, the next teacher was for real. The first day he silently observed the horseplay of the students, but on the second day he spoke . . . quietly but firmly. One scatterbrain boy tested the teacher, and was told to go get a green willow stick, finger-size. The teacher reddened the skin on the inside of the boy's hands and promised a repeat performance every time Bijou Lambert stepped out of line (1895). School had really begun!!!!!! It was in 1896 that the people of Vegreville petitioned the government in Regina for a school and a post office. There were as many as 36 pupils attending in Old Vegreville.

Tetreau, Joseph And Family by Mary and Peggy Tetreau

Joseph Tetreau, son of Benoit Tetreau, was born in May, 1888, in Concordia, Kansas. He came to Canada in 1894 with the first group of pioneers in the Old Vegreville district. He married Albertine Dubuc in 1912 and homesteaded 4½ miles south on the Bruce road, where he and his wife raised a family of 14 children. Despite his busy regime as farmer and father, he still took the time to serve on the School Board and Church Board. He farmed successfully during the depression and until 1945, at which time he retired and moved to B.C. for two years, then returned to Vegreville at the request of his wife, Albertine, to be close to their children. The only one in the Benoit Tetreau family to stay in the town that he helped to found was Joseph and his wife. Joe was only a boy of 6 when he and his parents and 5 brothers and sisters emigrated to and co-founded the settlement that later became Vegreville. Joe and his family made their home in the “new town”. Albertine was born in Quebec in 1894 and had come West with her parents to see if the stories they had heard about the West were true.

Their first-born, ROMEO, died at the tender age of 14 months.

ALPHONSE (Punch) came along January 26, 1915, to fill the empty space. Alphonse married Marguerite (Peggy) Hayter in 1940 and they have 7 children. Punch received his education in both Dubuc and St. Martin's schools and went to St. John's College in Edmonton for a year. He worked for three different oil companies for 12 years. In 1952, with his brother-in-law partner, they operated the John Deere business in Vegreville. Following this he farmed for a few years. They are now retired in their home-town.



The Joseph Tetreau family, 1941. Back row (l. to r.) — Alphonse, Yvonne, Raymond, Rita, Irene, Theodore, Jeanne. Front row (l. to r.) — Ernest, Marguerite, Joseph (father), George, Albertine (mother), Anna, Denis. Standing in front (l. to r.) — Cecile and Rose.

Their oldest child — Mary Louise (Bubsy) — became a nurse before marrying Jack Toner, a heating construction estimator; and with their 4 boys — Cameron, Kevin, Justin and Jason — they live in Edmonton. Joseph Charles, next in the A. Tetreau family, is married to Judy Samis and they both work in the business part of Alberta Government Telephones, in Edmonton. Georgena is married to Marvin Kolodychuk, a maintenance and boiler engineer in the local hospital. Their two children, Darcy and Yvette, are the only grandchildren, so far, growing up in Vegreville. Paul married Dorothy McCarty and with their two children, Jill and Curtis, they live in Fort McMurray where Paul works for Great Canadian Oil Sands. Gloria and her husband, Cameron McDonald, have two children, Elaine and Darren. Cam teaches school in St. Jerome School, Vermilion. Albertine (Bert) is a Service Representative for A. G. T. in Vegreville and is married to Darryl Vinet, who is assistant-manager of our local Tom-Boy store. Gerard (Geri), a carpenter, the only one at present not married, is working in Fort McMurray for the Forestry Department temporarily. Punch was on the St. Martin's School Board for 15 years and has been on the Hospital Advisory Board for the last 23 years.

YVONNE was born January 26, 1916, and married Rene Dubuc on July 6, 1937. Rene has his papers as an automotive heavy-duty mechanic, as well as a

welder. They lived on the farm for three years, then lived in Vegreville for 11 years and since 1952 they have been progressive farmers just south of town. Rene was in the John Deere business with Punch Tetreau — Tetreau & Dubuc Implements Ltd. — for 12 years. They have three children: Louise is a homemaker; Henri also has his automotive mechanic papers like his dad. He is working as boiler engineer at the local hospital, as well as doing farming in his spare time. Henri was married to Betty Wesley on October 15, 1966, and they have five children: Jody, Michael, Aline, Lana and Martin. Daniel does accounting and at present is teaching accounting at Lakeland College. He married Eileen Mandryk in June of '68, and they have three sons — David, Dwayne, and Christopher. All the family lives in, or by, Vegreville, and Yvonne is ever grateful to her parents: Mother for teaching them the love of music, and Dad for helping them with their mathematics!

RAYMOND was born on September 16, 1917. He got his schooling at Dubuc School and then at St. Martin's R. C. S. S. After attending Edmonton Normal School, he taught at Paradise Valley School, 25 miles from everywhere (Vermilion, Mannville and Wainwright), or so it seemed to his wife, Mary (Sakaluk), whom he married on October 18, 1941. For a couple of years Ray helped his father on the farm, then was accountant at Allore's Garage and Imperial Lumber Co. He joined the staff at St.



Punch and Peggy Tetreau family, 1976. (l. to r.) — Jack and Mary Louise Toner with their 4 boys — twins Justin and Jason, and Cameron and Kevin; Marvin and Gena Kolodychuk with their 2 children — Darcy and Yvette, Paul and Dorothy Tetreau, Peggy and Punch Tetreau, Bert (the bride) and Darryl Vinet; Gloria and Cameron McDonald; Judy and Joe Tetreau, Geri Tetreau.

Joseph's General Hospital in 1955 and worked there till his retirement in May 1979. In the early forties he drove the first school bus in Vegreville for the County of Minburn, and continued to drive a bus until 1968. With his bilingual education he could enjoy and participate fully in the seminars and conferences of the Hospital Association. He served as president at the Regional level and director for several years at the Provincial and National levels. Ray and Mary were blessed with ten children: Delia, who won the Government General's Medal in 1957, is now a teacher-librarian in Calgary with a teenage son and daughter — John Jr. and Cathy. Jeanette (Jan), a lab technician living in Edmonton, is returning part-time to classes at the University of Alberta. Jim and Jan have one daughter, Rochelle. Lillian and Bill have one daughter and one son, Ailynn and David. After teaching several years, Lil is on leave to upgrade her education at the U of A. Josephine (Jo), who keeps busy at her painting and sketching, also lives in Edmonton. Stan and Jo have two children — Jo-Anne and Tim. After four daughters, Raymond, the first son, was a welcome sight indeed. Ray Jr. and his wife Gail just moved to Fort McMurray where he is a cost accountant with Syncrude. Bernard and Judy have one son, Jason, the first great-grandson born with the Tetreau name. He is the only married child living in Vegreville. He is the assistant manager at Revelstoke. Robert, after working for an engineering firm in Edmonton for a few years, is attending the Engineering Faculty at the University of Calgary to further his education. Donna graduated with honours from the Business Accounting course at N. A. I. T., and she is now working with Revenue Canada in Edmonton. Jean-Paul, who has the dubious distinction of being the first child in the family to have a broken bone, a broken jaw received from a knee while playing soccer, is in his second year at N. A. I. T. in Electronics. Colette, the youngest and the only child still at home, is attending Vegreville Composite High School and is in grade XI.

IRENE Tetreau, daughter of Joe and Albertine Tetreau, married Joe Poulin in 1941. He is the son of Arthur and Celina Poulin. They were both raised in Vegreville. They have seven children: Laurent married Rena Bijou and lives in Ranfurly. They have three children, Anita, Nicole and David. Doris married Ross Heath. They had four children, Donald, Brenda, Shannon and Michelle. She is living in Grande Prairie. Arthur married Sylvia Chorney. They had two children, Kelly and Sherry. He was killed in a snowmobile accident in 1975. Sylvia and the children live in Edmonton. Juliet married Gerit Marinus. They have two children, Jamie and Jeffery. They live in Vegreville. Marie married Thomas Bi-

jou. They have two children, Kerri and Kristy. They live in Sherwood Park. Joe Jr. is still single. Joe and Irene moved to Edmonton for ten years. Then a year ago, they bought a farm in Ranfurly and moved back, close to Vegreville, their old home town.

THEODORE was born in Vegreville on August 17, 1920. He completed his education at the U of A and spent one year teaching in Dubuc School. He was the youngest 1st Lieutenant trained in Canada. Theodore served overseas in England, Gibraltar, down to Algiers, north through Europe through Sicily, Italy and France, and finished his services in Disarmament in Holland. Upon his return from overseas, he returned to the U of A to further his education, getting his B. A., and B. Ed. He spent a short lifetime teaching. He was principal at St. Albert, Legal, Cold Lake Air Base, Red Deer, Bonnyville, Drayton Valley, Whitecourt; assistant-superintendent in Calgary, and was the first superintendent for Catholic Schools in Central Alberta. He was an active sportsman and devoted much time in Cadet Training. He died at an early age, of cancer, leaving his wife Viola (nee Anderson) and twelve children: Jewell and husband Dennis Harlton have two daughters, Shawna and Jennifer. Lorraine is married to Danny Stocking, and has a son, Chad, and a daughter, Danel. Terry (Mrs. Paul Tessier), has two sons, Kelly and Ken. Louise married John Braybrook, and has two daughters, Christine and Anna. Albert and wife, Janice, live in Edmonton. Lucille, married to Bill Storms, has two sons Justin and Tod. Marguerite is working in Edmonton. Michael and wife Judy have three children, Michelle, Miranda and Mark. George, Ted Jr., Danny and Peter are still attending school.

JEANNE was born on March 10, 1922. She married John Palichuk, who works for Imperial Oil in Edmonton. They have two daughters and a son.



Punch and Raymond Tetreau sitting on the running board of Punch's car — a 1926 Model T Ford coupe. Punch paid a total of \$45 for it — \$5 down and \$5 per month with no interest. 1937.

Darlene and husband Kumar have one daughter, Nivole. Gloria is at home. Alan and his wife Karen also live in Edmonton.

ROLLANDE was born February 18, 1924, and died on May 12, 1926.

MARGUERITE Theresa Tetreau, born September 14, 1926, was the ninth child of Albertine and Joseph Tetreau. She spent her childhood and early school years in Vegreville. In 1945, her father, hoping to escape the harsh winters on the prairies, moved his family to Langley, B.C. There Marguerite began working as a teller in the Royal Bank. In January, 1947, she married Reginald Easingwood, of Langley, and together they built a prosperous radio and television business. During their almost 30 years of marriage, four children were born: Lauren, born in 1948; Henry, born in 1949; Edward, born in 1950; and Vicki, born in 1956. Marguerite died in Langley on October 16, 1976.

ANNA, born July 22, 1928, moved with her parents to Langley, B.C. in 1945 and 1946. Upon her return to Edmonton she worked at Birks. In July, 1948, she started a new career with Imperial Oil Manufacturing Department, one of three girls employed in the downtown Monarch Building during the construction of the Edmonton Refinery. During this time she attended night school at MacTavish Business College in order to improve her typing, bookkeeping and shorthand skills. She later became head of the stenographic pool, then transferred to the Producing Department in Devon as the personnel manager's secretary. Anna and Raymond McPhee, an Imperial Oil Refinery employee, were married in August, 1951. Company policy did not permit wives to continue employment so Anna went to a lumber firm until the end of 1954. In January, 1955, a temporary assignment was given to her at the refinery until the arrival of their first child. Raymond, an RIA graduate from years of night courses, progressed with Imperial Oil to a present position of Manager of Financial Division at Comptrollers Department at Don Mills, Ontario. He was transferred to Toronto in July, 1957, with his wife and two daughters. Their children are Cheryl, born October 24, 1955, and Karen, born October 19, 1956 in Edmonton. Daniel, born May 14, 1958; Margaret, born September 24, 1959; Randall, born January 19, 1961 in Toronto. At present Cheryl is in her fourth year of medicine awaiting her degree in June, 1980. Since childhood Cheryl has been dedicated to becoming a doctor and sacrificed in numerous areas working diligently to attain her goal. Karen received her B. A. degree attaining highest standing for Scarborough College University of Toronto. She is now employed by Clarkson Gordon working on her Chartered Accountant's degree.

Karen married Ronald F. Smith on July 16, 1976. Daniel is presently in his third year at the University of Toronto and has shown qualities for Business Administration during summer employment. Margaret is in second year at University of Toronto and has a leaning towards employee relations in business. Her talent and tact will be an asset. Randy is completing grade 13 and shows real artistic abilities. He plans a university education this autumn, possibly in architecture. Anna, after years of raising her family, in 1968 took daytime training with the Board of Education to teach French to English-speaking elementary students and followed this career until the spring of 1973. At that time Anna became a real estate salesperson and successfully still enjoys this profession as a broker. Anna says, "A childhood memory of my father's heroism at the farm is the time he was feeding the horses and a horse quickly lifted his head striking my father's nose, breaking it and pushing it to the side of his face. Dad, in severe pain, walked from the barn, sat on the porch of the farmhouse and requested a mirror. To this day I can hear the 'crunch' of my father adjusting his nose in a more favourable position. Only then did he enter the house and have a 'brandy' which he only drank for 'medicinal purposes'."

Our mother lived in town for many good reasons — her mother was widowed and being near church and school was extremely important. Mother attended Mass every morning and usually with her children. I personally believe my mother a "Saint". She would always elaborate on a person's good qualities and make apologies for their weak points. She had a lovely voice and she sang constantly — I often could detect her cares from the songs she sang. Many were hymns.

One winter, our sister Marguerite had scarlet fever, when she was ten or twelve years old. She, my mother and grandmother were in quarantine for weeks. The Board of Health came over and sealed off two rooms of our house where they stayed. Food was prepared and passed to them from a porch area. Our older sister, Jeanne, did the cooking for the eight of us children. A great deal of credit goes to Jeanne, herself a teenager, being able to manage such a group of active youngsters. We are all grateful to our parents for their emphasis on love and respect for one another. It is apparent by the closeness of the Tetreau families.

I, RITA Tetreau, was born in Vegreville on January 15, 1931. My first two years of school were at Dubuc School during which time Lucille L'Heaureux (later Mrs. Joseph Dubuc) and Cecile Roque were the teachers. Upon the death of our maternal grandfather in 1939, my mother and all the school-

age children moved to town where we lived with her and attended St. Martin's R.C.S.S. We were encouraged to take advantage of the opportunity to learn both French and English. In 1949 I attended the Faculty of Education of the U. of A. to obtain my teaching certificate. I taught both English and French in Morinville and St. Claire's School, Edmonton. In September, 1957, I returned to St. Martin's but this time as a teacher. However, at Easter I resigned in order to marry F/O Paul Monpetit who was stationed at 2 Fighter Wing, Grostenquin, France. Our son, Michael was born there on March 14, 1959. Paul's next posting took us to Sardinia, Italy, where Madeleine was born on May 5, 1960. We joyfully returned to Canada in October, 1961. Since Paul was posted at Cold Lake, Alberta, I lived with my mother till housing became available. Claire our third child, was born in the old St. Joseph's Hospital in Vegreville on August 31, 1962. Colette, our youngest child, was born in Cold Lake on November 13, 1964. Another posting took us to Goose Bay, Labrador, in July, 1965, for a two-year tour of duty. At the end of this time Paul requested a release from the R.C.A.F. to assume a position in Ottawa with the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, and later with the Department of Manpower in the capacity of Training Consultant. All our children have, in Ottawa, been able to receive a bilingual education. Since 1968 I have been employed by the Ottawa Board of Education as a teacher of French and English-speaking children. Thanks to the foresight of my parents and the help and encouragement of the teachers at St. Martin's, the knowledge of the French language has vastly enriched my life and played a major role in my teaching career.

ERNEST, born September 26, 1932, is now living in Calgary. He received his B.Sc. in Chemical Engineering at the U of A in 1958. Following graduation he joined the oil industry and progressed to Vice-President of Operations, in 1976, with the Atlantic Richfield Co. He left the same position with Petro-Canada in 1977 to start his own Petroleum Consulting Firm and very recently formed Terran Resources Ltd. as president of that company. Ernest married Eleanor Pardely in July, 1956. They have four children: Cheryl, taking her third year in Business Administration at the U of Calgary; Rudy is in his second year Engineering at S.A.I.T.; Kevin and Michelle are both in High School at St. Francis, Calgary.

DENIS was born on November 18, 1934. He graduated with a B.Sc. Ph. from the University of Alberta in 1957. At present he is superintendent of Sprague Drug Stores in Edmonton and Calgary. Denis married Cora Clacklock on March 2, 1957. They have three children: Janice, born April 20,

1960, is attending her second year in Business Accounting at N.A.I.T.; Jody, born September 12, 1964; and Lee-Ann born April 19, 1966, are still at home attending school.

GEORGE was born on the 2nd of October, 1937. He was educated at St. Martin's School in Vegreville, and Catholic Colleges in Edmonton. He graduated as a Chartered Accountant in 1963. He moved back to Vegreville in November of 1964 with his wife, Louise Annette Lawley, and three boys: Mark (born February 12, 1961), Gregg (born March 7, 1962), and David (born May 15, 1963). Two additional sons were born in Vegreville — Paul born July 7, 1968, and Denis, born February 24, 1970. George has been a partner in the firm of Wilde, Tetreau & Co. for the last fifteen years.

CECILE Marie was born on December 23, 1938, and lives in Vegreville.

ROSE, the youngest, was born June 7, 1939. She married Al Kody on July 27, 1957. At present Al is an instructor of Carpentry and Cabinet Making at N.A.I.T. The cabin boat and summer cottage built by Al and all his family at Pigeon Lake are a veritable showcase of his building and teaching ability. Rose is an Office Manager for Tri-City Drilling Co. in Edmonton. They have five children: Nina is working at Revenue Canada; Cindy and Rosalee are also working in Edmonton; Timothy and Shawn are still attending school.

Theroux, Emery and Louise **by Jeanne (Theroux) Lupul**

One of the early pioneer families of this area, Emery Theroux and wife, Louise, left Quebec at the turn of the century to homestead in the raw land by Ben's Lake, about fourteen miles north of Vegreville. At first, they lived in a tent; then in a shack lined with newspaper. About 1908 they built a large frame house near the Vermilion River, which location caused problems frequently in the spring floods. Often, the choremen had to row a boat around to tend to their animals. The Emery Theroux place was an important landmark for many years. (The old house still stands in 1979). Because it was located on the trail from Vegreville to Brosseau and St. Paul, it became the stopping point for travellers in the early decades. People and horses were fed and rested there; none were turned away and few paid; no charges were levied, in the usual pioneer hospitality way. In addition, Mrs. Theroux served as Ben's Lake postmistress in her home. Mass was held there, too, about once a month. With a large family of their own and no school nearby, Theroux's kept a school in their home for about eight years, until Ben's Lake

school was built. All of the Theroux children were sent on to further education at the Convent in Vegreville; for a holiday week-end in winter, they would make the long trip in a sleigh, bundled so warmly in furs with warm rocks beneath that all the youngsters fell asleep on the trip. Family: Alcide, died 1978; Eugene at Legal; Maria, died 1966; Louisa in Edmonton; Florian, died 1977; Wilfred at Lethbridge; Armand, married Therese Belisle, living at Lafond; Yvonne at Legal; Florida at Kelowna; Anna at Brosseau; Jeanne at Vegreville; Phillip at Horse Hills; Roland, married Irene Bradshaw, living at Two Hills.

Emery Theroux died in April, 1940 at the time of a big flood; the body had to be moved by wagon from the home through acres of water until they reached the hearse which was waiting on dry ground. Mrs. Theroux died in 1960 and the old farm was sold shortly afterward.

Jeanne Theroux was married first to William Rosko who died in 1965; their children are: Violet Sorochan of Edmonton; Virgil Rosko of Vegreville; and Maxine Rosko of Edmonton. In 1966, Jeanne married Larry Lupul and they live at 5446-44St; they are employed as custodians of St. Martin's church, as well as doing odd jobs around town.

Theroux, Noe and Clemence

by Martha (Volk) Theroux

Noe Theroux, born at Coaticooke, Quebec, in 1875, came West in 1900, first to Wetaskiwin, then to Vegreville area in 1903 where he settled in the Ben's Lake district at SW 25-54-14.

In that same year he married Clemence Laboucane at the Spring Creek church. They had six children: Eddie and Wilfred, twins, who died at about six years, of diphtheria; Alphonse, Joseph Rosann, and a baby who died with her mother in childbirth in 1916. For some time the children had to go to school at the old Hairy Hill school, about four miles distant, travelling by horse and cart in summer, and in winter by a horse pulling a cutter or a toboggan. Later they attended Ben's Lake school which was built one-half mile west of their farm. Many years later, Noe Theroux married Mrs. Piche and they lived at the Ben's Lake farm until 1934, when they moved to a homestead in the Plamondon district, retiring in 1943 to Lac La Biche. Then, hearing that a Senior Citizens' lodge was to be built in Vegreville, they applied for admittance and were the first to move into the building; in fact, in the contest for naming the new facility, Mrs. Theroux's suggestion was chosen: "The Homestead". Mr. Theroux died



Theroux family — Joseph, Alphonse, Mr. Noe and Rose, 1923.



(l. to r.): Mr. and Mrs. Noe Theroux and Mrs. and Mr. John Volk, Plamondon, 1935.



Joe and Martha Theroux, by his dad's house in Lac La Biche, 1954.



Round-up time on homestead, about 1914. (l. to r.): Mrs. Noe Theroux, daughter Rose, Mr. Noe Theroux, and son Joseph.



Mr. and Mrs. Basil Theroux. Basil was a well-known ferryman at the Brosseau-Duvernay River crossing for many years, a record in the ferry's 27-year history. About 1930.

in Vegreville in 1963. Then Mrs. Theroux moved to Edmonton where she died in 1970 at age 94.

Alphonse Theroux moved to Brosseau, then St. Paul; died in 1978. Joseph Theroux married Martha Volk in 1936; they lived on the Zipher St. Hillier

farm one-half mile south of Ben's Lake school until 1941; then moved to Garnet English farm four miles south-west of Two Hills. In 1944 they bought a farm by Woodbend, south-west of Edmonton; sold that and bought the Emery Theroux farm one mile south of Ben's Lake school site. In 1973 they retired to Vegreville. They had two daughters, both nurses: Eva Badry and Mary Seminowich, both of Edmonton.

Rosann Theroux married Joe Volk in 1936, living first on the Theroux homestead, then in 1941, moving to the Beamish farm, south-east of Vegreville. In 1943, they moved to the Chrapko farm, three miles east of town; then in 1945 they bought the Brunton farm in the Warwick area, where they lived until their retirement to Vegreville in 1973. They have no children.

Thomas, Alma V.

by Alma V. Thomas

In 1881 my father, the late Rev. A. M. Zalizniak, was born in Kiev, Ukraine. In 1906 he came to New York, U.S.A., where he met my mother, Anna. They were married in New York City in 1910.

My mother came to the U.S.A. about the same time as my father. She was born in Austria of Ukrainian parents.

Soon after my parents were married they came to

Canada, first to Winnipeg, then Edmonton, and in 1912 they arrived in Vegreville, Alberta.

In Vegreville my father was one of the few people in charge of the Vegreville Boys' Home.

In 1915 my father bought a farm in the Vegreville district about seven miles northwest of the town of Vegreville and my parents and older brother and sister moved there.

I was born in Vegreville in 1914 and the late Dr. Reid of Vegreville was the attending physician. I was about a year old when we moved to the farm and some of my happiest days were spent there.

My father farmed and on Sundays visited different parishes where he preached the gospel. I grew to love the farm with its little stream running through it and the rolling pasture where, in the spring, the hills were covered with wild crocuses and other flowers. In the summer time we picked many wild berries.

When I was six years old, I started school at a one-room schoolhouse called Park Grove. The school was about three miles away from home and sometimes we walked to school and other days we had a horse and buggy. In the winter the neighbors took turns in taking the children to school in a sleigh that was filled with hay, and we used heated bricks at our feet to keep the cold away.

We looked forward to the Xmas Concerts that were held every year. The women in the district made up bags of candy, nuts and oranges for Santa to hand out to each child. We each took some part in the concert while the parents watched their children perform.

In 1924, when my oldest brother Edward, and sister, Lydia, were ready for high school, my father decided to move to a place where there was a high school located. In the little Park Grove School the grades only went from Grade I to Grade VIII.



Henry and Aggie Ziegler's home on their farm, 1941.

My father sold the farm to a neighbor, Henry Ziegler, who is well known in the Vegreville district for his raising of fine cattle. I believe they are still living on the farm but must be retired by now.

We moved to Edmonton in 1924, leaving behind many good friends and neighbors and fond memories.

Through the years we have sometimes gone back to visit friends and while in Vegreville have taken a drive to pass by the old home and school and remember the happy days.

I am now married to Victor Thomas and living in Ottawa. My husband is retired from the National Research Council. We have two children: Dr. Dwight Thomas who is with the University of Regina and Mrs. Sharyl Estabrooks, a pharmacist, who is living in Ottawa. We are blessed with two grandchildren, a boy and a girl.

My father, mother, brother and little sister have since passed away.

My sister Lydia is married to Dr. M. H. Boykovich of Saskatoon and my younger sister Alice is married to Dr. George Semeniuk, now retired from the University of South Dakota. My sister Alice is a Department head at the University of South Dakota in Brookings, South Dakota.

In closing I will always have fond memories of Vegreville where I was born and the happy days I spent on the farm in the Vegreville district.

Thompson, T. "Tommy" and Evelyn

The children of Mr. and Mrs. T. "Tommy" Thompson, Leonard and Doris Jeffrey, are comparative old-timers in Vegreville, having lived here since 1924.

Dad (Tommy Thompson) was born in Jedburgh, Scotland, in the year 1886 and came to Canada in 1908 at the age of 22 years. After spending a short time in Montreal, he moved westward to Woodstock, Ontario, where he worked on a dairy farm for nearly a year. Being a stonemason by trade, farming wasn't for Dad so he moved farther west to Calgary. Here he became a lumberman and continued in this business till his retirement about 1955, working in Didsbury, Chipman, Two Hills and Vegreville.

Evelyn Mary Hillyer came to Canada from Croydon, England, in 1912 and she and Dad were married that same year in Calgary, and spent their honeymoon at the first Calgary Stampede.

Son Leonard was born in Calgary in 1913 and daughter Doris in Didsbury in 1918 during the flu epidemic.

The family spent two years in Chipman before moving to Vegreville in 1924. The years 1934-1935 were spent in Two Hills without Len, who was now



The bathing beauties of 1940 at Alberta Beach. Tommy Thompson and Archie Jeffrey Sr.



Mr. and Mrs. T. Thompson, son Leonard in middle, daughter Doris and (right) Gwen Williams whose father was a school superintendent in Vegreville. About 1930.



Mr. and Mrs. L. J. Thompson on their wedding day. Other couple: Mr. and Mrs. W. Kennedy, 1941.

out on his own. The rest of mother's and dad's years were spent in Vegreville.

Dad enjoyed curling, golfing, hunting and fishing and was a past-master of St. John's Lodge.

Mother curled and worked hard in the Ladies Aid and W.M.S. of the United Church. She was a past matron of Joan of Arc Chapter Eastern Star.

Mother died in the year 1950 of cancer and Dad passed away in 1966 of a heart attack.

Leonard Thompson married Ida Reich of Wainwright in 1941. During the war they spent several years on the Alaska highway. They returned to Vegreville in 1950 and are still residing here.

Doris married Archie Jeffrey in 1942 and we took



Mr. and Mrs. Harry Alexander and Mr. and Mrs. T. Thompson, 1930's.

over Archie's Dad's farm and farmed until 1974 when we sold the farm and moved to town. We have two children, Robert, born in 1945, and Sharon born in 1949.

Robert married Luva Garbe of Daysland and they have one son Allen, and live in Drumheller. Sharon married Arthur Martel and she has two sons, Sheldon and David.

Vegreville has been a good town to live in. We have watched its growth with interest and at the present time have no intention of retiring elsewhere.

• • •

1928



Maurice Thomson cutting grain on SE 10-52-15-W4, 1928.



Stanley Thomson and the farmstead, about 1936.



Steam threshing outfit of Mr. Thompson's at Prairie Lodge Farm, 1925.



Snowed-in crop on Maurice Thomson farm, 1944.

Tierney Family by Burton Tierney

In the year 1900, Jeremiah Tierney, with his son Tom and daughter-in-law, Inez (nee Cole) and two grandchildren, Willis and Eva, arrived in the Old Vegreville District and homesteaded land presently owned by M. Matwiw (E. ½ of 32-51-15 W4). Two years earlier (1898) George Cole had left Rock County, Minnesota and found land for the Coles, Leaches, Trenhailes and Tierneys. The Tierneys farmed their land until 1905, when Vegreville moved to its present location. Prior to the moving of the town, Jeremiah had died in 1904 and had been interred in the Old



Tom and Inez Tierney. Early 1900's.

Vegreville cemetery. With the moving of the town, Tom and Inez decided to follow and gave up farming to reside in New Vegreville.

In Vegreville, Tom engaged in a variety of activities. He was one of the founding members of the Vegreville Land Company which continues to operate (1979) under Mr. J. Hoffman. He also owned a large dairy herd (Ayrshires) which supplied much of the early town with its milk. Tom's son Willis often recounted the problems encountered during the winter trying to keep the milk from freezing. The milk was delivered by sleigh and a little wood stove was kept burning to prevent the milk from freezing. There were no milk bottles. People simply set pitchers, jars, and cans outside their doors and the milk was ladled from cans of milk carried in the sleigh. Tom, like most early pioneers in the district, was interested in education. He showed this interest by serving on the Vegreville School Board until his death in 1922. He was a member of Mt. Pleasant Lodge, No. 49, I.O.O.F., a director of the Agricultural Society, and a director of the U.F.A. Political Association for Victoria. His wife Inez, predeceased him in 1920.

Willis, Tom's oldest son, spent his early years in



The Burton Tierney family, 1964.



Willie and Willis Tierney and grandson Blaine Tierney, 1963.



Tierney children — Eva, Stella and Leo. Early 1900's.

Vegreville where he attended Vegreville's first school, taught by Miss Ada Wright. He often spoke of hunting coyotes on horseback, trapping muskrats, and gathering buffalo heads, which littered the surrounding area. The buffalo heads were ground for chicken feed. In 1916, Willis joined the army serving in France with the Motor Machine Gunners. Following the First World War he farmed north-west of Vegreville on the S.W.¼ of 36-52-15 W4. In July, 1922, he married Wilhelmina Brēmner. They had one son Burton, born in 1923. Willis farmed until 1940 when he joined the Veterans Guard of Canada.

Following the second war he returned to Vegreville, where he lived until his death in 1968. His wife, Willie, now eighty-five, still enjoys good health and is presently residing in the Vegreville Nursing Home.

The other members of the Tierney family, Eva, Stella and Leo moved to various areas of the United States in the 1920's and have all since passed away.

Their son, Burton Tierney, married Edna Miller in 1945 and is presently teaching (1979) at the Vegreville Composite High School. They have three children — Mrs. Marilyn Todd, Mrs. Patti Kucherawy, and Blaine. Marilyn and Douglas reside in Hanna and have three children — Kent, Carrie and Marla. Patti and David live in Vegreville and have two children — Clayton and Dawn Marie. Blaine moves about quite a lot, but is seldom far from home.

Tillapaugh, Jack by Ethel (Tillapaugh) George

John Frederick Tillapaugh came to Vegreville in April, 1906, from Decorah, Iowa, with his wife, Minnie, and two children, Ethel and Earl. Six more children were born in and around Vegreville: Frank, Virgil, Marjorie, Clyde, Clair and Bill.

"Jack", as he was known, became almost a permanent fixture of the town staff, as he headed the waterworks and public works crew for years as town foreman. He joined the town in 1924 and from that time, until his retirement in 1956, supervised and was overseer of almost every bit of work carried out by the town. Even in his retirement he was called on for

advice and assistance in service problems. He was also on the fire department.

He smoked a crooked stem pipe and wore a railroad fireman's cap, which a good many would remember.

He lived at Raith, known now as Royal Park. He then homesteaded at Therien and returned to Vegreville in 1917, taking employment with Fairbairn's Flour Mill; then he joined the town. His son Earl joined the town about 1942 and worked till 1970 when he was retired. Earl took over town foreman from his Dad, Jack; he also was on the Fire Department. Earl and wife had four children, three boys and one girl. His son John (Budd) is still in Vegreville with his wife, Sophie, and two daughters Gina and Jo Ann. Budd works for International Water Supply since 1955.

Jack's daughter, Ethel George, still lives in Vegreville and has been a member of the Vegreville Women's Institute since 1953.

Jack passed away November 24, 1963.

His wife, Minnie, passed away April 2, 1965.

Frank passed away March 7, 1967.

Virgil passed away May 30, 1965.

Jack's daughter, Marjorie Taylor, lives in Tofield, Alberta.

Clyde is in Rich Lake, Alberta.

Clair and Bill are in Edmonton.

Earl Tillapaugh lives in Powell River, B.C.

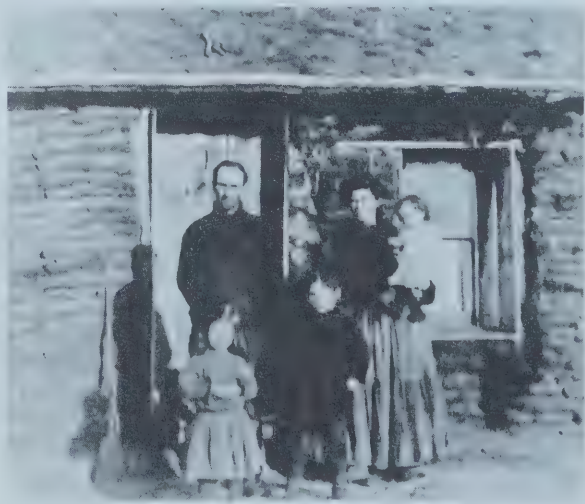
Tillapaugh, John and Frances

by Mary McMullen

Mr. Tillapaugh came from Decorah, Iowa, U.S.A. in 1903, landing in Strathcona first. Then he



Jack Tillapaugh family at home. (l. to r.): Clyde, Virgil, Frank, Mother (Minnie), Marjorie, Earl, Dad (Jack), Ethel, Bill, Claire. 1950's.



Ernie Turner built the sod-roofed house in 1904, on SW 6-54-14-W4. The children of Mr. and Mrs. E. Turner are (l. to r.) — Alberta, Clifford and Robert (the baby).

came down east to his brother, Fred Tillapaugh, who had a homestead at Royal Park (one-half mile west and one-half mile north). John took up a homestead at Warwick that was then known as the Brookside



Brookside School at Warwick on NE 36-53-15-W4, built on the Tillapaugh homestead in 1905-06. (l. to r.): Mr. Dunn, Mrs. Glimps and Mrs. Dunn. The teacher at the organ is Miss Meikle. The school children are Tommy Burkholder, Elsie Blaes, Vivian Dunn, Mary Tillapaugh, Minnie Burkholder, Loy-at Tillapaugh, Clifford Turner, Clifford Tillapaugh (always went by "Jack").



Claude Decker's parents' home near Warwick, 1904.



Mary McMullen and brother Dan Tillapaugh, homestead house in background, 1920.

School District. The old Warwick Post Office and store were moved four miles west when the C.P.R. came through from Willingdon to Vegreville in about 1928.



(L. to r.): Niece Doris, brothers Loyal and Daniel, Mr. Decker and dad, John Tillapaugh, 1917. Note mules and home in background.



(L. to r.): Elvina Bourget, Eva Dumanch, Mary Tillapaugh, Lena Book, in Vegreville, 1916.



Frank Tillapaugh and brother-in-law Pete looked after this barn in Vegreville, 1908. They had a team of drivers that were used as a taxi in those days. Livery barn was on 51 Ave. east. (Past Mutual Surplus Sales.)



On their way to Warwick, 1920, John Tillapaugh and son Loyal and Helen Elliott, a friend visiting from Denver. Note team of mules, Jack and Jenny.

A school was built in 1905 on the Tillapaugh homestead and later it was moved to Norma and used for a school there. It was eventually replaced by a two-roomed brick school in Warwick. Mr. Ed Eickmeyer built this school with the help of Dick Rennie.

John and Frances Tillapaugh had three children — Mary, the oldest; Loyal, born in Iowa, U.S.A., and Dan, born on the homestead in Warwick in 1908. John, the father, passed away in 1936. He was born in Michigan, U.S.A. in 1856.

Frances, the mother was born in Sheldon, Minnesota.

Sometime in the 1940's they sold the homestead and moved to Vegreville where Mrs. Tillapaugh passed away in 1957.

Mary and Loyal are still living here in Vegreville and Dan is in Calgary.

Timanson, Leonard and Beth

In the spring of 1944 Beth and Leonard Timanson with their two children, Enid and Morton, moved to the Park Grove district where they took up residence on the farm formerly owned by Mr. Tom Wood. Mr. Wood was a cousin to Mrs. Dave Rainey, Beth's mother.

Prior to this move, Beth and Len lived in Dewberry, where Len had bought grain for the Federal Grain Company.

Both Beth and Len grew up on a farm so decided to go farming again after seven years of small town life. Mr. Wood was interested in selling his farm, therefore when he and Mr. Herb Davis were down in the Dewberry district grouse hunting and visiting Tom's relatives, discussions began regarding the sale of his farm. Beth and Len drove up to see the farm, made the purchase and then began to move.

While moving, one could see farmers out starting spring work, so by the time we had finally settled down in our new surroundings Len immediately commenced putting in the crop, which come fall, turned out to be a very good crop; in fact this was one of the better crops taken off down throughout the years. The weather had been very favorable that summer.

The move to the Park Grove district produced many memorable occasions, some pleasant and some not too pleasant.

The more pleasant ones come to mind first.

Just after we arrived at our new home and were getting established we had our first visitors. Two couples from the district, Jack and Betty Lowe and George and Edna Ziegler. They really gave us a grand welcome, needless to say. With this fine company an enjoyable evening was spent with our first guests.

There were many occasions which we shared with our neighbors and friends in our home, like the one early spring evening when a group of neighbors arrived to play cards. There was Mike and Vera Schultz, Gordon and Betty Brennan, Albert and Frankie Gafka, Harry and Olga Semotiuk and Herb and Leona Walker. Everyone got so involved in the card game that time went unnoticed and it was only when the sun started to shine through the living room window did we realize that the time was 5:00 a.m. The coffee pot brewed another cup of coffee and then the card players headed for home.

In the 1940's and early 50's the roads in the winter were often at times impassable for motorized vehicles, so horses and sleigh was the most practical mode of travel. Many a trip was made to Vegreville with team and sleigh for groceries or chop for the animals, through neighbors' fields, as the snow was not as deep there as on the roads.

Christmas and New Years Day dinners were celebrated at either our place or one of our neighbors' homes. Weather, transportation, and miles made it impossible to share the holiday season with our own relatives. Each year we would trade around; the one who would have Christmas dinner the year before would have New Years Day dinner the next year. We would arrive early enough to allow the children to have a full day of fun with their friends skiing and tobogganing.

Even if we were only about five and a half miles apart, our trips during these holiday season get-togethers had their moments to remember. One New Years Day when Mike and Vera Schultz and girls had come over to our place, a blizzard set in, but it didn't stop the festivities. We had a full day with an evening of cards, then it was time for them to hitch up the horses and head for home. They went down the road south to Albert Gafka's place where they turned in to take a short cut across his field to their place. They headed on out, totally covering themselves with blankets as it was cold. After a long ride the horses stopped, Mike jumped out to open the gate to their farm only to find that the horses had circled around and ended up back in Albert's yard again. The second time they headed out on the trail that got them to their destination.

Blizzards not only happen at New Years, but happen almost anytime during the winter season as evident during the March storm of 1951. Snow was drifted up to the telephone wires on the roads and it was impossible to even get across open fields with horses as snow reached about four feet high in most places. The municipal election just happened to fall during this time. Len was returning officer and Harry Semotiuk was the clerk. They walked part of the way to the Park Grove school and crawled on hands and knees the rest of the way as the election was held despite the road conditions.

Frieda and M. J. (Slim) Killoran and their family were our closest neighbours. They lived just north of our farm one-half mile. Their only means of transportation was by horse and buggy, so they went with us a lot. Frieda's family, the Hohns, lived in the Brush Hill district, so we met many families from that district as we used to provide their transportation to that district's events.

Our move to the farm has afforded Morton and Enid memories too. Their recollections vary from ours in that they had several adjustments to make — one to farm life and the others to rural school life and making new friends. They were used to just crossing the street and going to school in Dewberry; now they travelled two miles to school. At the beginning we would take them to school in the mornings and they



Enid Timanson and Morton Timanson with the family car — a 1940 Plymouth. 1946.

would have to walk home after school. They had never been exposed to farm animals in fields so their two-mile walks home from school proved to be pretty frightening at times. Even if there was a fence between them and curious horses or cows, this made no difference, they would seek the protection of a second fence and run as far away from them and as fast as they could in the opposite field.

During the course of the following year we acquired an old black horse from Mr. M. J. (Slim) Killoran, that had a definite mind of her own, and knew from the beginning that her passengers were a couple of real "greenhorns". Every morning we would get our two "heroes" bundled up and onto the horse and finally with much persuasion get her headed down the road towards the Park Grove School, but in about ten minutes or so from the time we would leave them on their own we would hear their distressful wails and home they'd come, horse in full command, bit between her teeth and our two "heroes" bouncing like rubber balls all over her back and hanging on for dear life. The whole earlier scene of that morning would then again be re-acted out, but this time they would generally make it to school, late of course! This was unfortunately an almost daily occurrence for the better part of their second school year at Park Grove.

Their horsemanship did finally improve to a point where they graduated to riding Cherry, a pony of Leonard's. They recall frequently the time in 1947 during the early spring and a very heavy rain, when they were riding home from school on Cherry. The ground around the bridge just down from the Park Grove school caved away under Cherry's back feet causing her to sink down onto the side of the bridge leaving only her head and shoulders visible. A frantic call for help went back to the school to their fellow school mates who were also just leaving for home. Ethel Schultz rode her horse up to one of the neighbors and requested help. They telephoned other



Ken Timanson on his favorite horse "Flicka". Their nice big barn in the background, and in bottom right hand corner is a firewood splitter that Leonard Timanson built — and it worked too! 1954.

neighbors and before the phone calls were finished several farmers were on their way with tractors and ropes. The first person on the scene was Ted Dake, who lived just down the road. He arrived on foot with shovel and rope in hand. With some shovelling and then applying the assistance Cherry needed she scampered on up to the solid bridge. Then all proceeded homeward bound.

In 1952 school busing was established in the Park Grove district causing the closing down of our rural school.

Our second son Ken was born in the spring of 1950. By the time he was old enough to go to school, the school buses were operating and the children all attended school in town (Vegreville).

Ken was quite sports-minded. Our visitors were always greeted with a bat and ball or a soccer ball. When he was old enough, he played baseball and hockey on some of the school teams. He thought he needed extra practice in skating, so he cleaned off a spot of ice at the beaver dam. Some of his friends came to skate with him. More and more of his friends heard of his skating parties on Sundays, so he ended up by having quite a gang to skate and play hockey with. Some times the day ended with a wiener roast. Ken is still active in sports. He coaches some of the school curling and hockey. Yes, in those days Mom and Dad sure did keep fit, as we used to get involved in ball practice and also a bit of skating.

Today we are still active in farming.

Enid, after graduating from the Vegreville School of Nursing at St. Joseph's Hospital, spent fifteen years in the United States nursing at various hospitals and health services in Minnesota and then Montana. She now is back in Edmonton and employed as an Occupational Health Nurse at N.A.I.T. Patricia Campus.

Morton got a degree in Forestry from the University of Montana, married Nancy Skrepnik and moved to Grande Prairie where he worked with the forest service for ten years. He has now transferred down to the main office in Edmonton where he is in charge of the Woods Operation Section of the Timber Management Branch. He and Nancy have three children — Kent, Karen and Kevin.

Ken got his degree in Education at the University of Alberta, moved to Grande Prairie and began teaching at Montrose Jr. High School where he is still teaching. He married Colleen Kusyk and they have three children — Pam and twin daughters Kenda and Korene.

Tomyn, Maxim

Pioneer Municipal and School Secretary — Treasurer

Copied with permission from the book "History of Two Hills", 1978, by Stephen Urchak and Nick Buk.

Maxim Tomyn was born March 12, 1881, in the Village of Skowiatyn in the County of Borschiw, Western Ukraine. It is likely that he attended the elementary school, although the amount of schooling that he acquired there was minimal. In 1899 his parents decided to emigrate to Canada. On arrival they settled in the district, which later was given the name of Edna, now known as Star, on the 12th of July. The Edna Colony was the first Ukrainian settlement founded in Canada by Iwan Pylypiw and Wasyl Elezniak in 1891.

Maxim Tomyn lived with his parents until 1904. On the 30th of May of that same year, he married Anastasia Boychuk, also of Edna. Soon after the wedding the young couple travelled to their future home in what is now known as the Plain Lake District. The homestead, to which Maxim Tomyn claimed title, is located close to the north shore of Plain Lake. This farm continued to be Maxim's home until his death.

Maxim and his bride began their life on the homestead just like hundreds of other settlers. But he had other ambitions. He realized that in order to succeed in Canada, a person must have a good knowledge of the English language both oral and written. He bought a Ukrainian-English dictionary and an English grammar book. Maxim spent all his free time learning the English words and using them to form sentences. After weeks of concentrated study, he was able to read English newspapers and carry on a conversation in the English language.

By 1905 the district had become fully settled and a need arose for some form of local government. The Two Hills area was also a part of the Local Improve-

ment District, but as the population had increased, the boundaries were modified, and in 1909 the taxpayers were enfranchised to elect a councillor for the Local Improvement District. The first councillor to be elected for this position was quite naturally Maxim Tomyn.

The Plain Lake Post Office was opened and Maxim Tomyn became the first postmaster in 1908.

In 1911, when the structure of the Local Improvement District was altered, Maxim Tomyn was appointed secretary-treasurer of the following school districts: Chornick, Krasne, Nizir, Plain Lake, Pobeda, Russia, Two Hills and Wolia. He visited these schools and he became acquainted with the teachers and was well-known by the pupils.

Maxim Tomyn, who had no formal education, liked to reminisce on the lighter side about some of his experiences as a school secretary-treasurer. The school teachers of those years were not as well-qualified as they are today. Some of them had not even completed grade ten. At least one such teacher

had some difficulty in keeping records in the school register, and he called upon Mr. Tomyn for assistance in filling out the various forms. "I was glad to oblige him," Mr. Tomyn said with a chuckle.

Maxim Tomyn was the co-founder of the Plain Lake community and a prominent leader in the field of religion. As a leader of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Parish, he was admired and respected by the clergy and the laymen alike. It was through his initiative that a magnificent church building was erected in the Plain Lake District some fifty years ago.

Not only was Maxim a farmer but he was also a municipal policy-maker, a municipal councillor and an interpreter of official documents. Acting as a legal adviser, he helped hundreds of ratepayers with their problems such as acquiring citizenship papers, land titles, and old age pensions and he looked after correspondence of all kinds. There was a common saying among settlers: "If you have a problem, see Maxim Tomyn."

His knowledge of the operation of municipal government was equal to that of any senior official in the government ranks. Although he was only a municipal secretary-treasurer, actually he was more than that. He was a municipal administrator, and as such he kept a watchful eye on the purse strings of the municipality. These and other activities are synonymous with the name of Maxim Tomyn.

Maxim Tomyn was well-known not only in his neighborhood but far beyond the boundaries of his home territory: in the corridors of the Legislative Building, in the organization of The Association of the Alberta Municipalities, and among prominent people of the neighboring towns of Vegreville, Lamont, Mundare, and other places.

In 1911 the structure of the Local Improvement District was altered once more, but Maxim Tomyn remained secretary-treasurer. A short time later the area was organized into the Municipal District of Sobor No 514. Again Maxim Tomyn was re-appointed to serve in the same capacity.

As far back as the year 1917, tribute was paid to Maxim Tomyn by Miss Chisholm, a Vegreville school teacher. In speaking to her class one day she made the following observation: "I know a man who occupies an important position in the community. He had no formal education. He could not read, write or speak the English language. Yet in a matter of months he trained himself to such an extent that he is not only the secretary-treasurer of a municipality but also secretary-treasurer of a number of school districts. His name is Maxim Tomyn."

In the year 1938, the Municipality of Sobor, of which Maxim Tomyn was secretary-treasurer, found itself in financial difficulties. This was during the



Mr. and Mrs. Maxim Tomyn, about 1940.

Of the

Plam Lake

ASSESSMENT AND

ASSESSMENT

No. on Roll	NAME OF RATEPAYER (Enter name of owner and occupant, if any. If owner be unknown, enter unknown.)	POST OFFICE ADDRESS	PROPERTY ASSESSED					No. of Acres Assessed	VALUATION	D. M. Asse N.
			Plan No.....	Lot	Bl.	Subdiv.				
			Part of Sec.	Sec.	Tp.	Rg.	M.			
	(1)	(2)	(3)					(4)	(5)	
	(Owner)							\$	c.	
	Occupant									
	Wasylyuk	Plam Lake	NW	18	52	11 4	160			
	And Goryun	"	SW	"	"	"	160			
	Wasylyuk	"	NE	"	"	"	160			
	Plam Shcherba	"	SE	"	"	"	100			
	C. Ry	Calgary	All	19	"	"	637.8			
	Henry Wanykew	Plam Lake	NE	30	"	"	160			
	Alisa Saborowski	"	NW	"	"	"	160			
	Wasylyuk	"	SW	"	"	"	160			
	G. Barowski	"	SE	"	"	"	160			
H.	Goff & Archibald B. Birkmyre	Glasgow, Ont.	All	31	"	"	640			
H.	Goff & Archibald B. Birkmyre	Glasgow, Ont.	All	13	53	12 4	640			
	Carob Swarich	Plam Lake	NE	14	"	"	160			
	Aleksa Stepushyn	"	NW	"	"	"	160			
	John Caruch	"	SE	"	"	"	160			
	John Grycan	"	SW	"	"	"	160			
	H. Wanykew	"	SE	15	"	"	126			
	John Predyk	"	SW	"	"	"	160			
	Peter Skoropadyk	"	NW	"	"	"	160			
	John Grycan	"	NE	"	"	"	160			
	Mabrym Babyg	"	NE	16	"	"	120			
	John Predyk	"	SE	"	"	"	160			
H.	Goff & Archibald B. Birkmyre	Glasgow	E 1/2	21	"	"	215			
	Dmytro Wipinski	Plam Lake	NE	22	"	"	144.1			
	Peter Karaim	"	SE	22	"	"	160			

TAX ROLL

1915

School District No. 2229 of the Province of Alberta, for the year 19

TAXATION													
Tax Rate cts. per acre or Mills on Dollar	Amount of Taxes for Current Year		Arrears of Taxes due from Jan. 1, 19....		TOTAL TAXES DUE		DATE OF MAILING TAX NOTICE		TREASURER'S INITIALS (To be written after each notice mailed.)		PAYMENT OF TAXES		DATE OF
	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	Amount	Date of Payment					
	\$	c.	\$	c.	\$	c.			\$	c.			
6 1/4	10	00	12	00	22	00						22.00	
	10	00			10	00						10.00	
	10	00	12	00	22	00						22.00	
	6	25	6	25	12	50						12.50	
	12	00	24	00	36	00			30.70	Feb 5. 1916			
	10	00	36	00	46	00			690	Mar 1			
	10	00	12	00	22	00			34	00	Dec 30	18.00	
	10	00	24	00	34	00			20	00	Dec 31	3.00	
	40	00	96	00	136	00			30	00	Jan 19. 1916	76.00	
	40	00	96	00	136	00			50	40	July 15		
									55	20	May 17		
									50	40	July 30		
									55	20	May 17		
									40	00	Dec 14		
	10	00			10	00			10	00	Nov 27		
	10	00			10	00			10	00	Dec 14		
	10	00			10	00			10	00	Dec 14		
	10	00			10	00			10	00	Nov 27		
	7	90	9	45	17	35						17.35	
	10	00			10	00			11	00	Jan 15 1916		
	10	00			10	00			10	00	Dec 13		
	10	00			10	00			10	00	Nov 27		
	7	50			7	50			7	50	June 30		
	10	00			10	00			10	00	Dec 31		
	13	43	32	24	45	67			16	93	July 30		
									18	53	May 17		
									13	43	Dec 14		
	9	00	10	34	19	22			10	85	June 28	8.88	
	10	00			22	00			23	20	Dec 27		

This Assessment Roll was posted on the..... day of..... 19.....

Wm. J. Thompson Secretary.

150 12

This Assessment Roll was posted on the day of 1915
Monahan Secretary.

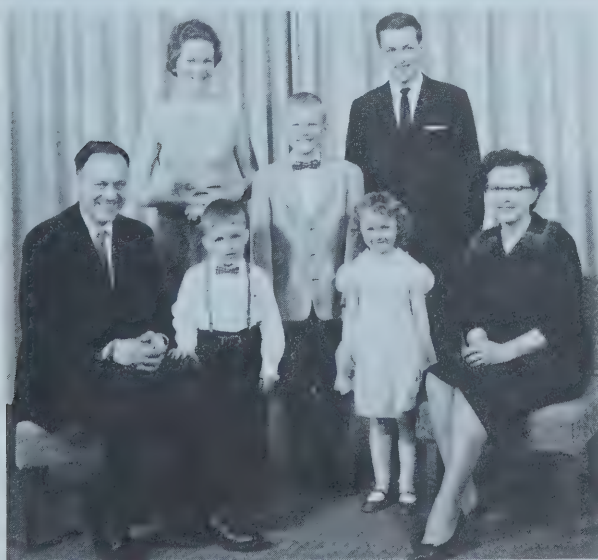
150 1/2

great depression, during which time all municipalities went bankrupt. But to make matters still worse, some of the councillors in the Sobor Municipality were suspected of using their office for personal gain. The taxpayers became indignant and began to agitate for the resignation of the councillors. A mass meeting of the ratepayers was called, and it became a bedlam of charges and countercharges, accusations and alibis. The minutes of that meeting were forwarded to the Department of Municipal Affairs whereupon the Minister promptly suspended the whole council and appointed an administrator to direct the affairs of the municipality. Through all that turmoil Maxim Tomyň's integrity was never questioned and he continued in his capacity as secretary-treasurer, taking his orders now from the administrator instead of the council. He continued to hold that office until his death on January 4, 1941.

Tomyn, Michael and Georgina

Michael H. Tomyň, teacher and principal, was born at Plain Lake (south of Two Hills), Alberta, on April 17, 1915. He is the son of Harry (1889-1953) and Annie (nee Petasky) Tomyň, born in 1899 and still living. He is a grandson of Daniel Tomyň, an early Ukrainian pioneer who settled in the Wostok district, close to Edna, Alberta, in 1899. The family had emigrated from the village of Skowiatyn, district of Borschiw in Western Ukraine.

Michael is cousin to the late William Tomyň, legislator, teacher, and insurance underwriter. On April 17, 1943, his brother, Steve Tomyň, R.C.A.F. lost his life on a military mission over Germany.



Michael Tomyň, Ted, Lillian, Georgina. Standing (back) Anna, Harry, Michael Jr. 1961.

In the mid 1920's Michael lived in Vegreville where his father, Harry Tomyň, ran a livery stable. Across the avenue just north of the Alberta Pool Elevator was a big red barn, one of about half a dozen in town that catered to the farmers who travelled long distances, especially from north of town before the building of the C.P.R. through Willingdon and Two Hills in 1928. Those were the days of the horse, wagon, buggy and sleigh, and the horses had to be billeted for the night, especially in wintertime, before the return trip next day. The farmers' shack, close to the barn, served as sleeping and socializing quarters. No doubt many old-timers will remember some of the great times spent in these shacks.

In the summer of 1925 the barn was destroyed by fire, but within 3 months a new one had been built and was ready for use.

In late 1925 the property was sold to Andrew Bohaychuk of Royal Park. The second barn burned down in October, 1929.

Michael was educated in the public schools at Plain Lake, Vegreville and Two Hills. In 1936 he graduated from the Calgary Normal School. In 1961 he received his B. Educ. degree from the University of Alberta. On October 30, 1937, he married Georgina, daughter of Fred and Annie (nee Werbiski) Melnyk of Innisfree, Alberta.

Michael's teaching career began in Myroslawna School, northeast of Innisfree, in 1936. He has taught for forty-four years, thirty-four of these as principal. After Myroslawna, he taught in Kolomea, Mundare, Lavoy, and Vegreville (A.L. Horton, St. Martin's and St. Mary's). In the last school at Vegreville he has been principal for thirteen years.

During his teaching career, Michael had six Governor-General Medal recipients; that is, students who achieved the highest standing in grade nine Departmental Examinations in the inspectorate. In 1943, for his overall school organization and proficiency, he was awarded the Lord Strathcona Trust Shield, an award that he had held in his hands posing for a photograph fifteen years earlier, when he was a young student at Plain Lake School where his cousin, William Tomyň, was teacher and recipient of the Trust Shield. This is a unique coincidence.

Michael has led a very full and busy life. In the late forties and early fifties, he was mayor of Mundare for two terms, a period during which the village was incorporated into town.

During the summer vacation, Michael attended summer school, chaired and marked grade nine departmental examination papers, and has been assistant fieldman (weed inspector) in the counties of Two Hills, Lamont, and Minburn for fourteen summers.

His extra-professional activities are equally im-

pressive: member of the Vegreville Hospital Advisory Board for six years, president and secretary-treasurer of the Vegreville Fish and Game Association, president, secretary and treasurer of the Holy Trinity Ukrainian Catholic Church in Vegreville for a total of nineteen years, Past District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler of the Elks in 1950-51, Grand Knight of the Knights of Columbus for 2 terms, and an executive officer in all positions of the Alberta Teachers' Association Local.

Michael's interest in politics lay with the C.C.F. (now NDP). He was a candidate in the Vegreville Federal Riding in 1945 and campaign manager in the provincial elections of 1944, 1948, and 1955. A fluent speaker in English and Ukrainian, his services as toastmaster and master of ceremonies are much in demand in the Vegreville area.

Georgina has led an equally active life, both private and social. She loves sewing and painting. As a seamstress, she commands considerable respect among the women of the community. As an artist, she has won even wider recognition for her paintings, having received several top prizes in art exhibits in this part of the province. Having taken extension courses in art, she has been of great assistance to the teachers of the school where her husband is principal. She helps the teachers and pupils, not only in art, but performs other duties like librarian, stenographer, and teacher-aide. Georgina has given much of her time and energy to the Catholic Ladies' League, and has held all executive positions of that organization.

The M. Tomin family has lived in Vegreville since 1951, i.e. for the past 29 years.

Mike and Georgina have five children and five grandchildren.

The eldest child, Michael George, B.A., B.ED., L.L.B., who was born in 1939, is a provincial court judge, residing in Edmonton. At present his circuit includes Edmonton, Fort Saskatchewan, Smoky Lake and Vegreville. He taught for six years before embarking on his law career. In 1960 he married Kathleen Samoil, who is a school teacher in Edmonton. Their family includes three daughters; Karen who completed her high school, Patricia is in grade eleven, and Maureen in grade ten.

Anna, B.ED., born in 1945, is a school teacher at Mission City, British Columbia. She is married and has two sons: Gene, in grade nine, and Vincent in grade 8. Husband Terry is custodian of one of the bigger schools at Mission City.

Harry, B.A., L.L.B., born in 1950, is a lawyer practising in Vancouver. In 1974 he married Kerry Lukenchuk of Edmonton. Kerry works for the B.C. government in Vancouver.

Lillian was born in 1954. She completed her

training in social work at the Grant MacEwan College in Edmonton and is presently working at the University Library in Edmonton.

Ted, born in 1956, is a graduate of NAIT. He is an electronics technician stationed at Calgary. His work includes the installation of fire and smoke alarms in different institutions and apartments. Presently, with two co-partners, he has established a business venture under the name of "Low Voltage, Research, and Development."

The Tomin home is a busy place, especially at Christmas time.

Glimpses Into The Past: My Reminiscences and Impressions

by M. Tomin

The pioneers, the first settlers, considered themselves lucky and blessed to be able to acquire a homestead, a farm of 160 acres for only ten dollars. Wood, water, wild fruits and birds — these were all free. By "putting his hand to the plow" the settler could obtain or fashion nearly everything he needed, by tapping the natural wealth.

In many instances, the first home was a sod-covered dugout, or a log house covered with sod. The holes between the logs were chinked with a mixture of clay and straw or hay. Doors, frames, hinges, etc. were home-made. The trouble with a sod-roofed house was that it rained in the house for quite a long time after it stopped raining outside. Pots and pans caught the dripping water. Sometimes some sort of umbrella covered the crib or bed. Shingles were



Corner of this house — each log fits into groove cut into the log beneath it. House was mud-plastered inside and out. No nails, 1903. Photo — 1980.



Outdoor oven made of logs, twigs and clay, early 1900's. Some places still used in 1970's.



Typical one-room school. Plain Lake School, built in 1910.

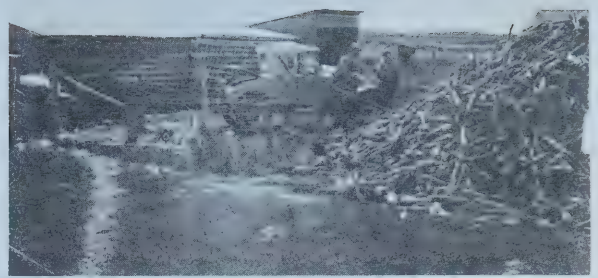
definitely an improvement, in more ways than one, and lumber siding was an amenity.

Some Ukrainian homes had an indoor or an outdoor oven made of logs and clay. The outside one had a curved roof while the inside one was usually flat. Because it was warm for a long time, it made a good sleeping area, akin to the incubator.

Many clothing items were made at home 30 to 50 years ago. It was not uncommon to see some clothes with the trademark of a sugar or flour company. One incident merits mention. In the high jump at he school, some of us were watching a young girl execute the leap. Just as she was going over, we spied Robin Hood fly over the bar.

Washing clothes over a washboard was no small chore. I do not know a single soul who just loved washing clothes this way. I tried it once but my belly seemed to be getting most of the punishment. A far cry from modern automatic washers.

Many will recall that soap was made at home. Ashes, lye, tallow, lard — these were the ingre-



A good supply of wood for the winter. Note cars and wall of shed, 1920's.

dients. Some of our surviving pioneers claim this soap beats many of our modern brands.

Many a pioneer home had its first mattresses filled with hay or straw. Every few weeks the mattress was emptied and then replenished with a new fill. Many beds were home-made; boards were the first springs.

The furcoats brought by the Ukrainians from Europe had the fur on the inside; ours, today, have the fur on the outside. It would be interesting to research which is more functional.

I sometimes wonder how all of us could do our homework at a table, the room being lit up by a coal oil lamp. It worked and was definitely more productive than a candle. Then came the Aladdin mantle lamp, followed by the kerosene and gasoline mantle lamp. The Aladdin lamp gave a bright light but would malfunction in a hot room; the mantle would turn dark. The kerosene and gasoline mantle lamps worked well till the moth season; then the moths would have a propensity for colliding with the mantle. Isn't it sort of strange to hear people complain about the lack of proper electric lighting today? The improvement in the quality of lighting is everywhere apparent.

The conditions of the Homestead Act were explicit: to prove up on the homestead the farmer had to break and seed about 5 acres a year, for three years, he had to show signs of development, as house, barn, some buildings, well, and some fencing, and he had to reside on the land six months a year. It appeared as if the government bet the settler 160 acres to his \$10 that he "wouldn't make it." Some didn't make it and



COWAN'S COCOA

12x1s Per Case **2.52** 24x1/2s Per Case **2.80**
(5-case Lots, Freight Prepaid)

Cocoa Advertisement, 1920's.

Warmth A-Plenty



Korean Beaver

Big and Warm

A Winter heavy-weight that packs as much warmth as any coat you could wish for and is priced way down, considering present fur prices. Of shared Goatskins dyed brown. It's more evenly and smoothly furred than natural-skin goatskins. Body is heavily quilted lined, knitted wristlets in sleeves, collar big and face-covering. Even chest sizes: 38 to 48; about 50 inches long.

15-N109—Price delivered each **39.50**



Beaver Lamb

Rich Looking

Sortly lustrous, evenly furred Beaver Lamb Coat—Lambskins dyed Brown and treated by a special process to make the fleece straight and smooth-looking. A fully rayon satin-lined body; heavy and lustrous, wide shawl collar; deep slash pockets, and a style that is comfortable and dignified looking. They don't cost a fortune, but sure do "feel like a million" in the Winter. Even sizes: 38 to 46 chest; about 48 inches long.

15-N110—Price delivered each **55.00**

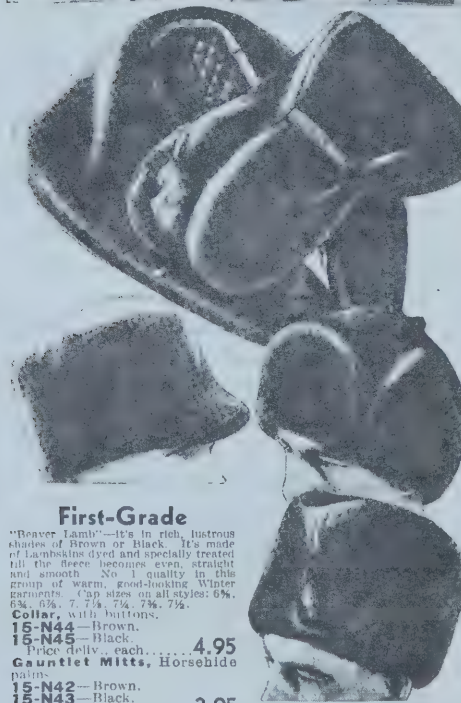


Buffalo

Famous For Wear

"Buffalo"—one of the toughest, warmest "heavy-weight" coats of them all. We offer them at a very reasonable price—they are made of hides not too heavy in weight, comfortable to wear. In the blended light and dark shades of brown of the natural skins. They are well furred, and by a special treatment the hide is rendered nicely pliable and immune to cold or wet. Quilted lined, extra large collar. Sizes 38 to 48 chest.

15-N111—Price delivered each **69.50**



First-Grade

"Beaver Lamb"—it's in rich, lustrous shades of Brown or Black. It's made of Lambskins dyed and specially treated till the fleece becomes even, straight and smooth. No 1 quality in this group of warm, good-looking Winter garments. Cap sizes on all styles: 6 3/4, 6 3/8, 7, 7 1/8, 7 1/4, 7 3/8, 7 1/2.

Collar, with buttons.

15-N44—Brown.

15-N45—Black.

Price delivered, each **4.95**

Cauntlet Mitts, Horsehide palms.

15-N42—Brown.

15-N43—Black.

Price delivered, per pair **3.95**

Boston Style Cap.

15-N246—Brown.

15-N247—Black.

Price delivered, each **2.45**

Jockey Style Caps (Tie-Top)

15-N241—Brown.

15-N242—Black.

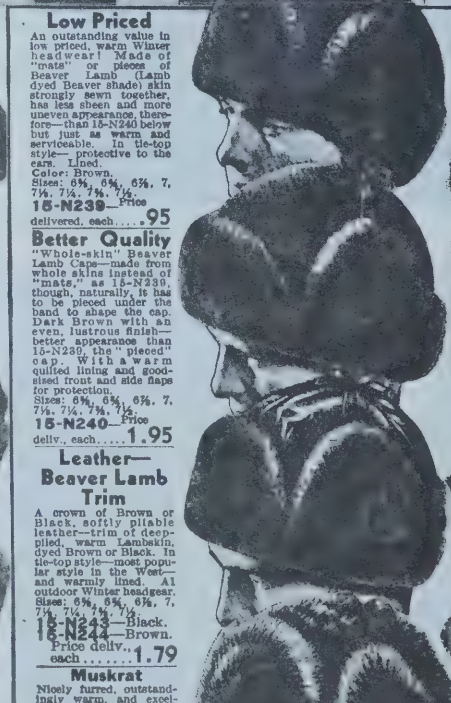
Price delivered, each **2.50**

"Wedge" Shape Cap.

15-N248—Brown.

15-N249—Black.

Price delivered, each **2.45**



Low Priced

An outstanding value in low priced, warm Winter headwear! Made of "mate" or pieces of Beaver Lamb (Lamb dyed Beaver shade) skin strongly sewn together, has less sheen and more uneven appearance therefore—than 15-N240 below but just as warm and serviceable. In tie-top style—protective to the ears. Lined.

Color: Brown.

Sizes: 6 3/4, 6 3/8, 6 3/4, 7, 7 1/8, 7 1/4, 7 3/8, 7 1/2.

15-N239—Price delivered, each **.95**

Better Quality

"Whole-skin" Beaver Lamb Caps—made from whole skins instead of "mate," as 15-N239, though, naturally, it has to be pieced under the band to shape the cap. Dark Brown with an even, lustrous finish—better appearance than 15-N239, the "pieced" cap. With a warm quilted lining and good-sized front and side flaps for protection.

Sizes: 6 3/4, 6 3/8, 6 3/4, 7, 7 1/8, 7 1/4, 7 3/8, 7 1/2.

15-N240—Price delivered, each **1.95**

Leather—Beaver Lamb Trim

A crown of Brown or Black, softly pliable leather—trim of deep-plaid, warm Lambskin, dyed Brown or Black. In tie-top style—most popular style in the West—and rayon lined. All outdoor Winter headgear.

Sizes: 6 3/4, 6 3/8, 6 3/4, 7, 7 1/8, 7 1/4, 7 3/8, 7 1/2.

15-N243—Black.

15-N244—Brown.

Price delivered, each **1.79**

Muskrat

Nicely furred, outstandingly warm, and excellently serviceable—a tie-top cap of "Muskrat"—always one of the better furs. Warm quilted lining—big face and ear covering, side and front flaps—a cap that "laughs at the coldest weather." It's big value, too!

Sizes: 6 3/4, 6 3/8, 6 3/4, 7, 7 1/8, 7 1/4, 7 3/8, 7 1/2.

15-N245—Price delivered, each **5.45**

If you are not sure of your Hat or Cap Size, turn to page 168 where you will find complete measuring instructions together with size charts for Men's and Boys' Caps and Hats. Do not guess at the size—measure if in doubt—be accurate.

170 Remember the EATON Guarantee—"Goods Satisfactory or Money Refunded"
1937-38.



**Style
AND
Quality
GO HAND
IN HAND**

**Value
That Challenges
Competition**

Good quality Black Calf Blucher style oxfords. Goodyear-welt, viscolized leather soles with slip soles. Smart and dressy. A comfortable oxford that will please you in wearing quality and value. Rubber top lifts on heels. E width. Half sizes.

54-P176—Men's sizes, 6 to 11.
Price delivered.....**3.95**



Tap Soles for Extra Wear

Selected Black side leather oxfords made to wear and priced right too. Blucher style, McKay-sewn leather soles with extra tap sole, neatly perforated and stitched quarter. Rubber lifts on heels. E width. Half sizes.

54-P108—Men's sizes, 6 to 10.
Price delivered.....**2.98**



PEP GALORE !

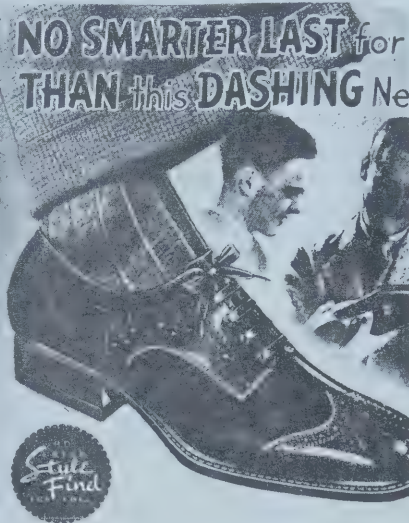
Style and quality that appeal to young men, at popular prices. Smart, dressy semi-brogue oxfords made in Blucher style from smooth Brown side leather. Neat perforations. Leather heel linings. Goodyear-welt, medium-weight leather soles and rubber lifts on heels. E width. Half sizes.

54-P157—Brown. Men's sizes, 6 to 11.
Price delivered.....**3.95**

**For the Well-Dressed
Young Man**

Young men will feel well dressed the minute they step out in a pair of these. Black Ca'l leather Blucher-style oxfords with Black Patent wing tip and Patent overlay trim at eyelets and heel quarter. Good fitting last. Goodyear-welted single leather sole. Rubber lifts on heels. E width. Half sizes.

54-P106—Men's sizes, 6 to 10.
Price delivered.....**3.98**



FIVE SMART MODELS ALL OUTSTANDING



**BE SURE
TO
STATE
SIZE**

Just Right for Fall

A smartly styled popular shoe for young men. Made from firm grade Black side leather on an easy-fitting last. Blucher style. Good wearing, McKay-sewn leather soles. Leather insoles. Smooth leather heel linings. Rubber lift on heels. Half sizes. E width.

54-P116—Men's sizes, 6 to 10.
Price delivered.....**2.98**

Fancy Stitched

Splendid value in smooth Black side leather oxfords, Blucher style. Fancy stitching on vamps. McKay-sewn leather soles. Leather insoles. Leather heel lining. Style and comfort in these. Rubber top lift on heel. Half sizes. E width.

54-P117—Men's sizes, 6 to 10.
Price delivered.....**2.98**

Swanky Fall Shoes

A stylish, very popular shoe for Fall and sports or everyday wear. Made from soft, Black grain leather in Blucher style. Rope-stitched moccasin vamp. Neatly perforated at sides. Good quality, lightweight leather soles attached by special process. Rubber lifts on heels. It shows just how much shoe value you get for your money at EATON'S. E width. Half sizes.

54-P170—Men's sizes, 6 to 10.
Price delivered.....**2.95**

Calf Balmoral Oxfords

Here's value for your money. Black Calf leather uppers, made over an up-to-date last combining comfort and service. Medium pointed toes, McKay-sewn leather soles, leather insoles and rubber lifts on heels. If accustomed to wearing round-toed shoes, order a half size larger in this shoe for a better fit. Half sizes. E width.

54-P147—Men's sizes, 6 to 10.
Price delivered.....**2.98**

124

If in Doubt as to SIZE, Send Us an Outline Drawing of Your Stocking Foot

the government won the bet, but most made it and kept the land.

At the middle of every section was an iron peg with the proper farm location designation. Around it were four holes to mark the four quarters of the section. Eventually some of these pegs landed in some farmyards for a certain utility while some became antique pieces.

To prepare a field for growing grain the ground was dug up with a spade or broken up with a walking plow drawn by oxen or horses. Seed was broadcast by hand, but later a box with a crank on the side speeded up the process and alleviated some of the hardship.

In the 1920's the sulky plow and the gang plow were used. Both had a seat to ride on. The sulky was pulled by two or three horses and plowed one furrow. The gang plow was drawn by four or five horses and cut two furrows.

Harvesting, i.e. cutting, was executed with a scythe or a sickle, and threshing was done with a flail. A sickle resembled a boomerang and was handled with one hand; the scythe had a long handle and was manipulated with both hands, in a swinging motion. The flail, two sticks held together with a

leather thong, beat the grain out. Winnowing was the last operation of harvest; the wind blew away the chaff as the grain was dropped from a height.

Binders were a godsend — they cut and tied the grain in one operation. Soon threshing machines appeared. First the horses on a treadmill supplied the



Seven-horse team-furnished power to operate small threshing separator on Dinwoodie's farm near Lavoy. Back row: David Dinwoodie, Billy Dinwoodie, Pearl Hubbard, unknown, Fanny Dinwoodie, Nince Briggs, Chas. Hubbard, Fay Davis. Men, (l. to r.): Geo. Hubbard, Geo. Michael, Dan Hubbard, Geo. Walz, Andrew Briggs. Children, (l. to r.): Dick Dinwoodie, Geo. Hubbard Jr., J. Davis and Rachel Briggs. About 1908.



Steam threshing outfit, about 1920.



Threshing at Vegreville, 1912.

motor power. Later steam engines supplied the power. Some small steam engines were stationary and had to be moved with horses or oxen. Others, the bigger ones, were self-propelled, clumsy but functional. They ate a lot of wood and straw and drank a lot of water. At the threshing machine a man stood at the feeder and cut the twine, flattened the sheaf, and pushed it down to the cylinder. Another man or two would stand on the strawstack and spread the straw, since the early threshing machine had no blower. Grain came down from a tall bagger and scale, through a long pipe and into the farmer's sack. Later better tractors and threshing machines cut down some of the menial labor. Today we have sophisticated farm equipment, including the air-conditioned tractor and combine. Originally a farmer could start out "on a shoestring" but today much capital is required to operate a farm.

Some of the early steam tractors were Hart-Parr, Rumely, Oliver and Case. They say it was the McCormick-Deering 15-30 tractor that broke up Western Canada. It had steel lugs and ran on gasoline.

The stone quern, the millstones, were fashioned from rock. The top round stone rotated over the bottom one, and it was turned by hand. Grain was dropped in the centre hole, and the flour, bran and all, came out at the sides, to be collected in pails and sacks. It was a tedious process, but "necessity being the mother of invention", it produced the desired results.

In the summertime wild fruit was abundant. Strawberries, raspberries, gooseberries, blueberries, saskatoons, chokecherries, pincherries, high bush cranberries and loganberries grew quite profusely. The fruit was either eaten fresh or canned for preserves or jam. Our belts held up the pails while we picked raspberries, chokecherries, and saskatoons. Eating chokecherries with stones could be painful as some of us discovered.

Wild meat was readily obtainable. Ruffed grouse, prairie chicken and duck were quite com-



A quern (mill-stones) used by Early Ukrainians for grinding flour. Early 1900's.

mon. My father used a 12-gauge shotgun with home-made shell to kill the wild rabbits and birds. There was no closed season then.

Many farmers had a sod-roofed root house. In it were stored cream, potatoes, sauerkraut in barrels, and other vegetables. It was the first refrigeration plant.

Some people kept their cream cool by lowering it on a rope down an abandoned well. Another forerunner of our refrigeration.

Not all farmers had sawing or chop-making outfits. Usually one farmer in the neighborhood had the equipment and travelled from farm to farm, supplying the service. The wood-sawing bee was next to threshing. About six men were required, food was extra special and the comradeship was manifest.

Did you ever try to get some straw or hay off a stack in wintertime? Somehow you ended up trying to lift yourself up with the forkful of feed.



Harry Tomy, well-driller, working north of Lavoy, 1921.

Coming from town with a team of horses in winter called for special precautions for the draft animals. They had to be covered with blankets and put in the barn. They were given a drink of water later, after they cooled themselves off.

Drawing water out of the well in winter was sometimes a cumbersome chore. The ice would cake the top portion of the cribbing, the rope would freeze and become rigid (a situation not natural for a rope), the pail would become unmanageable because of the coating of ice, and the pulley would sing an unpleasant and annoying tune. What was the remedy? The ice in the well had to be skillfully chipped away with a long handled axe, and the pulley, rope, and bucket were taken to the house for a thawing and drying session. Today we realize that getting water from our tap is definitely an easier operation.

During the hard times the farmer would take cream and eggs to town to get some grocery money. The eggs were often placed in pails of oats to prevent breakage. The teamster had to watch the cream can so it would not turn over and do what it was not supposed to do.

A more recent episode with the cream occurred when it was transported in the trunk of a car. At the creamery the farmer discovered that the cream can had upset, opened, and rendered an eyesore spectacle. The result spelled plenty of tolerance and elbow-grease.

Now the versatile binder canvases. They were used for a variety of purposes:

- a) They naturally were a part of the harvesting machine.
- b) Old canvases covered new canvases on the binder.
- c) Canvases covered walls of plastered homes and other buildings to prevent the rest of the clay from falling off in rainy weather, and simultaneously, to keep out the rain.
- d) Canvases made suitable play tents for the children.

e) Canvases covered wagons filled with grain or chop or seed.

f) They made a suitable roof for a doghouse or a clucking hen domicile.

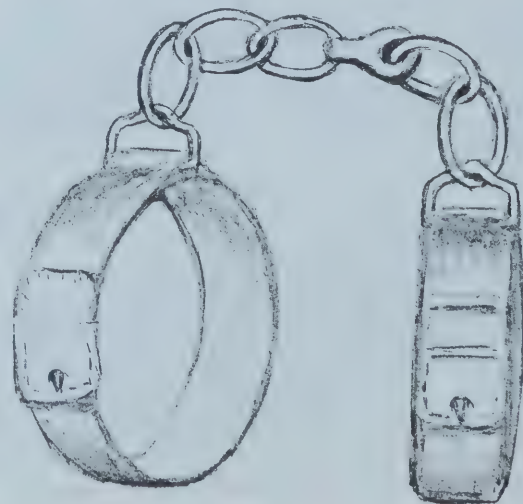
The bennett buggy was a car pulled by horses. The economic upheaval of the 30's made driving expensive, so the farmer rigged up the drawing gear in front of his car so that his team could pull it, just like a wagon. The reins came in just under the swing-forward windshield. Equipped with a roof, the hybrid effected a fairly good ride.

Fall was a happy time because we could go hiding in or sliding down the straw pile. This meant getting a lot of straw and chaff down our neck and into our clothes, but this discomfort was more than compensated for by the fun the exercise provided.

Remember how crows would bunch up in the fall and we were sorry to see them go? Their departure signified the approach of winter. Then do you recall how glad you were to see them return in March, singly or in pairs? They were the first feathered harbinger of spring. But the crow was considered a pest and had to be eradicated. That is why the government placed a bounty for its destruction.

The oxen were stubborn draft animals. They detested flies, especially the heel, bot, or horse fly. To escape the wretched insects, they would go into the slough, or among some saplings and pull the mower behind them. The farmer spent a long time trying to coax them out and extricate them from their predicament.

To keep horses from wandering too far from the farmyard, it was necessary to put hobbles on them. This was a contraption of leather and buckles, similar to hand cuffs, that was placed around the horse's front ankles to impede his movement. He could leap but he could not run nor walk fast.



Hobbles, 1920's.

Hobbles

Buffalo wallows were still evident in the early 1900's. These were usually sandy places, hollowed out as the buffalo "tore up the dirt" as was his inclination at a certain time of the year.

Mosquitoes were a terrible nuisance. To keep the pests away from livestock, the farmer made a smudge — wood, green grass or manure — to make a lot of smoke. Insects do not like smoke but livestock does not mind it.

In the later 20's the caterpillar scourge hit this area. Our teacher would have us pick off the school so many caterpillars and drop them into a can — five caterpillars for one mistake in arithmetic, 25 caterpillars for not doing our homework and so on. Did the punishment fit the crime? At that time nobody questioned it. Times have changed — let's hope, for the better.

Plowing, discing or harrowing invariably encouraged a lot of seagulls to follow the equipment. The birds picked up cutworms, other grubs, and small gophers. Even today one usually sees a sea of white birds in the field, following our big tillage implements.

Prairie fires were a real threat. A fire guard of 10 furrows, then a burned off strip, and then another 10 furrows was usually quite expedient. Many settlers lost their effects because of this creeping and devouring monster.

Soap holes were found one-half mile north of Hairy Hill, one mile east of Ranfurly, nine miles north-west of Mannville, and other places. These were muskeg areas with a seemingly "no bottom". In the early days they spelled death to some livestock and even to a few people.

Sometimes the bull became a ferocious animal. The Vegreville rural area witnessed the death of several well-known farmers, gored by a mad bull. Others had a very narrow escape from the fickle animal. The children were always cautioned to stay at a respectable distance from this sometimes explosive character.

As a young lad I was deathly scared of Indians and gypsies. To make us stay close to the house while she did the farm chores, mother would tell us not to wander away or else "the Indians will get you." I recall seeing the Indians pass our place one day. I went through a barbed wire fence in record time. Nobody knew the meaning of "babysitter" and something else had to be used.

There was a time when livestock buyers went around the country buying cattle. If the purchase was made "on the hoof," the farmer was obliged to chase the cattle to market, usually the nearest town, which could be ten miles away. Other farmers along the way, who had made similar sales, drove their cattle

out too, to join the ever-expanding herd. By the time the town was reached, there was much bellowing and stampeding. The exercise savored of a western movie.

The pedlar, driving into the yard, was greeted with mixed feelings. Children waited in anticipation while the farmer and his wife sometimes wished he hadn't come. Money was usually scarce. But the Raleighs or Watkins man usually had something the people wanted, like the cure-all ointment, the best shampoo, the top-notch pepper. Usually the farmer paid for these in kind, like eggs, or chickens. The children always got some candy. The newspaper salesman also sold subscriptions by the same means of exchange — the paper for two chickens. If darkness was approaching, the pedlar was usually invited to spend the night and get a meal free. The people were usually poor in wealth, but wealthy in charity.

Remember how father shaved with a straight razor, usually on Sunday morning? Vigorous play or noise was strictly taboo; otherwise he could cut himself. Children were on their best behaviour when dad pulled the razor ever so gently, all the while distorting his face to facilitate shaving the different regions. No matter how careful he was and no matter how silent the children were, there were times when he



Well-drilling machine, 1922. Harry Tomin (extreme left).

would sustain a nick here and there. To prevent bleeding he would put bits of cigarette paper to the affected spots. Today a safety razor and the electric razor do the job quickly and safely.

My father was a well-driller. Whether he practised “witching water” or “water divining” I do not remember, but some people professed to be well-water locators, according to the art. They would use a forked willow or some other comparable gadget and claim to locate water, so that the well-driller would have a sure bet.

Some road work was done, in lieu of farm taxes. There were two reasons for this: farmers did not have enough money, and somebody had to build the roads. This arrangement proved practical for approximately fifty years.

To build and maintain their roads the pioneer farmers used special equipment. A slip drawn by two horses and a fresno, usually pulled by four horses, carried the dirt from a plowed area, usually a hill, or land on the side, to a lower area to fill up the depression and thus make up a type of grade which would make travelling less arduous. The scrapers required dexterity in handling. If one was not careful, the scraper could swing up upon encountering an obstacle and could inflict serious injury. Later a drag, a heavy framework with blades put at an angle and drawn by horses, did a good job of maintaining the roads.

A Vegreville doctor or nurse would come to the school periodically to inoculate or vaccinate the students and pre-school children. What wailing and screaming! Candy and peanuts usually soothed their painful experience.

In the 1920's and 30's the children could make some spending money. The municipality paid 1¢ for each gopher tail, 1¢ for each crow or magpie egg and 2¢ for each pair of crow or magpie feet. Of course, the gophers, crows and magpies had to be dead. Some of the the boys were lucky to make more money by trapping or snaring muskrats, weasels, rabbits, and an occasional coyote.

Fifty years ago the seneca (plant) was quite plentiful in our country. It was a sturdy plant, about a foot high, with few leaves and small white flowers. We dug up and dried its roots and sold them in town for so much a pound. To make a pound required the destruction of many plants. The roots were used for medicinal purposes, supposedly for snake-bite.

I remember going barefooted for the cows early in the morning. By the time I located them, my feet would be quite cold. I used the cow to warm my feet. I would make her get up, and I would stand on the spot where she spent the night, thus bringing much relief to my frigid limbs.

Many of the children in the 20's and 30's walked barefooted to school. Sometimes they would carry their shoes and put them on when they got to school. In wintertime, the other extreme was imperative: heavy woolen socks to keep out the cold.

The boys' pastime consisted of playing marbles or softball. In town, boys sometimes rolled a tire or truck wheel hoop, a sport that called for expertise in a race. Games commonly played in early schools were: Pump, Pump, Pull Away; Prisoner's Base; Ante-i-Over; Softball; Baseball; and Fox and Geese.

Snowdrifts provided the material for snowhouses and caves. The cavern could be scooped out with a shovel or bare hands. It lasted till it was blown over, or till some bigger children or siblings attacked its roof by jumping on it. Children, whether at home or in school, played outside a lot and invented their own games. Organized sport and sophisticated equipment were a distant phenomenon.

No matter how tall our rubber boots were, they were never tall enough. Not to be outdone by any of our peers, we waded into water, so deep that it filled our boots. Our sense of victory overshadowed our discomfort. Spring was one season that provided this rare opportunity.

Although the summer months were school holidays, some of us spent some time picking up a different type of education. The priests and sisters taught catechism in the local school or hall, and we spent about a week learning the rudiments of religion. We were taught good manners and Christian ethics.

At my grandparent's place, I often looked through a stereoscope — a viewer where two pictures merged into one. The gadget was very fascinating. It was the forerunner of our other visual machines.

The annual community picnic attracted a varied crowd. People young and old, rich and poor, all came to the picnic on a sort of holiday. Baseball, races,



Stereoscope — courtesy of Signs of the Times, 1920's.

confectionery booth, and opportunity for fraternization — all these were drawing cards. It was at the early district picnic that the young boys and girls usually had their annual sample of ice cream.

Christmas was a big celebraton, too slow in coming. Visits to our grandparents were a “must”. Nuts and candy were always handed out to the children and grandchildren. Food of top cuisine was relished by all. Everybody sang carols and the spirit of camaraderie was ever so evident.

The Christmas Concert at school or hall was always looked forward to. Children were on their best behaviour and parents were proud of the little darlings. Carols, songs, plays, skits, recitations and pantomimes were the usual program items. To close the evening on a very positive note, Santa Claus handed out presents to the little people. Districts staggered the dates of the concerts so that more people could attend.

The Spanish influenza of late 1918 decimated the population in many districts. The disease was characterized by a very high fever, a very bad headache and extreme delirium. Mention is made of cases where the people were afraid to bury the corpses, else they succumb to the malady. The epidemic followed World War I. There was also a very severe drought in 1919, a situation conducive to spreading of disease germs.

The year 1918 is noted for another affliction: on the night of July 23 the country was hit by a severe frost — 10° of frost (22°F). There were instances where the thatch from roofs was fed to starving cattle. Many farmers contracted a debt at that time when they were forced to buy feed at exorbitant prices. And to make matters worse, many of the cattle died the following spring. Even strong men cried. We have instances where that debt was not paid off till World War II, with “blood money” as some called it. Remember that the 1920’s were not such profitable years, while the 1930’s witnessed the worldwide economic depression — sometimes called the Hungry Thirties, and sometimes the Dirty Thirties.

The winter of 1930-31 was a very mild one. There was no snow till March. That was one Christmas that could not be called “White Christmas”.

The year 1947 witnessed one of the biggest storms in hail history. The storm started by Wetaskiwin, went through Royal Park, south of Two Hills and ended up in northern Saskatchewan, covering an area from six to eight miles wide and nearly 200 miles long. Crops were destroyed and buildings were damaged.

We shall all remember the storm of March 17, 1951. The storm raged for close to three days and, in some places, snowdrifts reached up to the telephone



Badly drifted road following a 1951 March storm.



Evidence of the severe 1951 March snowstorm.

wires. After the storm I was able to walk right across the telephone wires, a feat not often executed. The municipal elections held at that time were, in some cases, declared null and void, because even the deputy returning officer couldn’t make it to the polling place.

Some remarks about the early schools would not be out of place.

In the early part of the century many teachers taught on permit. Some tried to teach without the proper qualifications and were released by the department of education official.

In most Ukrainian settlements children spoke the mother tongue and had a difficult time speaking English in school. They were punished if they were caught talking Ukrainian.

The school was usually a one-roomed building with windows on one or two sides. A pot-bellied heater, encircled by a jacket, supplied the heat mostly in one end or corner. The length of stovepipe from the back of the room to the chimney in front was supposed to distribute more heat. The room had a platform in front, some maps in a case, a globe, a big Webster dictionary, a pail or water fountain, a flag, pendulum wall clock, some cups, some library books, and a pencil sharpener. The seats were double, either anchored to the floor or bolted onto narrow boards for maneuverability. Children sat facing



Plain Lake, teacher — P. M. Shavcook holding dog, 1921.

the blackboard, with the light coming over the left shoulder.

Children brought lunches in lard or syrup cans and tea in mazola oil bottles. Lunch consisted of buttered bread and boiled eggs. Sometimes jam was in evidence, especially around threshing time. An apple or orange was a welcome addition to a rather monotonous fare.

The barn in the schoolyard was used often, especially in winter time. Children came by sleigh or cutters at a season when horses were relieved of some of the heavy farm work. Since the barn was not cleaned often, old dobbin sometime had his posterior a lot higher than his anterior. Did this position interfere with his digestion?

The health nurse came around about once a year to check up on cleanliness. Lice were sometimes discovered in some children's hair. The nurse recommended a fine-toothed comb and coal oil for exterminating the ticks. An embarrassing situation but it happened!

My first car ride was given to me by my first teacher. P. M. Shavhook came to teach in our school when he was 17 years old. He drove his car down the hill about fifteen miles an hour, a speed much too fast for his favorite grade one pupil. Coming back from the store, I found the ride less hair-raising.

Because of the absence of halls in the vicinity many schools were used for different functions. Christmas concerts, meetings, dances, weddings, pie socials, box or basket socials, elections, parties, dramas, and selling shadows — these were the activities held in the school, and one would surmise that not always did they lend themselves to education.

Times were different in the early days. The lantern in the window was a beacon for homestead-seeking settlers and other travellers. The door was usually unlocked. Today we lock our doors, and draw our drapes. How times have changed!

Yet often I get nostalgic for the good old days where ruggedness was an absolute ingredient for survival.

There is something nice about pioneering.

Towe, Earl and Lillian (Ziegler)

I was born the youngest daughter of John and Irene Ziegler and was raised in the Park Grove district.

I attended Park Grove School for the first years of my education, later going to school in Vegreville. In 1953, I trained as a Certified Nursing Aide in Calgary. After I graduated in July, 1954, I worked in Vermilion Municipal Hospital for two years.

Earl and I were married in August 1956 and Earl started his trucking career. Dale was born in Vermilion in 1958. That year we moved to Lloydminster where Earl resumed trucking with McKays Transport. Brenda came into our lives in 1959, and Patricia in 1963.

In June 1964 we moved to the Park Grove district and took over the family farm (John Ziegler). I at this time went back to nursing at St. Joseph Hospital. We farmed for three years and due to health problems, Earl took barbering at N.A.I.T.. I continued nursing for nine years and in 1970 we moved into Vegreville, and Earl was back to trucking in 1971.

Dale and Brenda have both graduated from Vegreville Composite High School. Dale is working with Alberta Power Co. in Grande Prairie and enjoys both winter and summer sports activities. Brenda is going to continue her education with Lakeland College this winter. Patricia is attending Vegreville Composite High School this fall. I am not working at present.

Trenhaile Family by Grace (Trenhaile) Johnson

George Cole and Alida Reas were married in 1861 in Marion, Wisconsin, U.S.A. After several moves to various places they settled in Rock County, Minnesota, in 1877, where they stayed and raised their family. Even in those years Minnesota was becoming well settled and land was increasingly difficult to obtain. George Cole couldn't see how his family could progress and expand in Rock County so in the late 1890's my grandfather, George L. Cole, and a very good friend, William Ross, concluded that they must look elsewhere for land and thought Canada an ideal place to explore.

Preparations were made for the long journey. They travelled by train to Calgary where they obtained the necessary supplies to make the trip north to Strathcona. Here they were told that if they were looking for homesteads to try the Vermilion area (I

am not sure whether they had a guide or not). Among the many things needed for the journey was a horse and buggy. Travelling wasn't easy as there were only trails going around bush, crossing creeks and circling sloughs. There was lots of water everywhere, plus lots of mosquitoes swarming around them day and night.

By now they were getting weary of their adventure and search for land and thought the soil in the Old Vegreville area looked good, and it was there that George Cole selected homesteads for all his sons and sons-in-law, as well as for himself.

It was in 1900 that the T. H. Tierney, Ezra, Merton and Willis Cole families came from Minnesota to what is now known as Old Vegreville. Henry and Nellie Trenhaile came in 1901 and Ezra and Ettie Leach in 1902. Now that their family was settled in Canada, making a new life for themselves, George and Alida Cole thought it time to join them and they arrived in 1902 with their youngest daughter, Stella. Stella had only a year to enjoy Canada as she died on October 12, 1903, at the age of 18 years.

George Cole, with the help of his sons, got a house and a barn built. The buildings are still standing, used mostly for storage. Once again tragedy came their way, when on a bright autumn morning while taking his team and wagon for a load of wood, the team bolted and George was killed on Sept. 3, 1904. As a young man George Cole had served in the American Civil War from 1862 to 1865. Now that Alida Cole was a widow in this new country, it was decided that she would live with her eldest daughter, Ettie Leach, and her husband, Ezra.

My parents were Henry Thomas Trenhaile, born in 1872, and Nellie Alida Cole, born in 1875. They were married in October, 1896, and farmed for a few years in Minnesota before coming to Canada in the late summer of 1901. They spent their first winter in Canada with Nellie's twin brother, Willis, and Carrie Cole. Henry and Nellie had two daughters, both born in Hardwick, Minnesota: Pearl Deve in 1897, and Grace Lillian in 1899. Some years later they had a son, Clifford Raymond, born in 1912, who died in 1917 from scarlet fever.

There was nothing much at Old Vegreville at that time. Everything had to come from Edmonton, so there was a lot of freighting done. The men usually went in groups so they could help one another in case of trouble. This was the way we got our first one-room house. The men hauled the lumber out during the winter along with the many other things that were needed.

My Dad's homestead was the N.W. ¼ of 28-51-15-W4thM. Money was scarce so most of the men were glad to get a chance to haul almost any-

thing to make the odd dollar. Dad had to break a number of acres of land each year and also live on it for several months of the year in order to "prove up" on his homestead. Breaking wasn't what it is today — it was done with horses and a walking plough and with the good old grub hoe. Freighting, too, was heavy work. The roads were very poor and they often got stuck so badly that they would have to unload their wagons in order to get them out and then reload them. It took days to make one trip.

It was about this time that Dad decided he needed another horse to complete a second team. There were a lot of horses running wild, and among them was a light grey mare. Various men had tried catching her without success. Eventually she got to be known as the outlaw horse. Dad asked some Indians to help catch her, for a small price. They finally managed to rope her and bring her home. She certainly was wild and for most of the first year she was kept tied to a quiet horse. It didn't seem to make any difference how high they made her manger, she would manage to throw herself in it — on her back, legs straight up in the air. We called her Daisy, but I don't know why — she certainly wasn't a daisy when she first came to us. She did get to be a very reliable horse and it meant that Dad could now take two teams when freighting to Edmonton, tying one team behind the wagon he was driving.

Everyone took his own grub box of food but there were places where one could stop, have a meal and stay overnight. You provided your own blankets and were expected to sleep in the barn, granary or even under your own wagon. If there was a lady along, she probably would be asked to come inside the house and would likely sleep on the floor. I believe there were three stopping places. Just a little north of Old Vegreville there was the Dennis' stopping place; also one at Beaver Lake called Angus McCallum's and Swan's place just a little north-west of the present town of Lamont.

During this time, while the homesteader was trying to improve his homestead, Vegreville was slowly becoming a little hamlet. We soon had a Post Office and were lucky if we got the mail every two weeks. A grocery store, blacksmith shop, hotel and other buildings were built, bringing needed services to the settlers.

Reverend R. E. Finally came in 1901 and held church services in the Dennis' home. He did many kind deeds as he went from home to home, such as helping my mother get a load of hay when feed was short, during the first winter we stayed at Willis Cole's. He would willingly saw wood for anyone short of wood for the stove and carry messages for



Mr. Henry Trenhaile's homestead. Mr. and Mrs. Trenhaile holding horses; children Grace and Pearl, about 1906.

people, and he really did many kind and helpful things that no one ever heard about.

It was still rough going while the men were freighting back and forth during the winter. The women had to look after things at home, such as walking through deep snow down to the creek every day to keep the waterhole open so that the livestock could get a drink. The homes were far from each other (not as we look at it today) and they had no way to travel, only a rough trail through deep snow. I know my mother was often frightened at night with the coyotes howling and the owls hooting and the isolation. Mother was a real homemaker and always ready to help the sick or anyone in need.

As things got better we had many happy times together. There was a school built at Old Vegreville and one at Leachville on Ezra Leach's farm. The first year my sister, Pearl, went to school she stayed with our Aunt Ettie and Uncle Ezra Leach because the school was so close to their home. The next year I started school and we walked across the pastures which made it about two miles to Old Vegreville. Miss Doyle was our first teacher. Later we went back to Leachville and as we got older and attended higher grades we at one time drove eight miles to the New Vegreville School.

The railroad was coming west and by-passed Old Vegreville by about four miles northeast. The only thing to do now was to move as many buildings as possible to the new site, which is now the present

town of Vegreville. Things soon began to have a different look and it seemed that buildings sprang up overnight there. In 1907 Dad decided to try a different kind of life. He went into the real estate business with Harry Meredith and Herb Cunningham, known as The Globe Land Co. Some years later he went into business with James McNeill, handling the International line of farm implements. He soon found that one couldn't live in town and farm too, so he returned to the farm once again, as he was always primarily interested in mixed farming.

He then bought more land and added another room to the house. In fact, it was remodeled three times and in later years Dad built a large barn. Dad was very fond of horses and he was proud of his black driving team, which he had for many years. In fact, in our family, we were all very fond of horses and my Mother rode from the time she was a child. My daughter, Eileen, has a very fond memory of riding her saddle horse, a mare called Midget, along with Grandma Trenhaile riding one of the black driving team.

During this time land was being settled and families were moving in and eventually a prosperous community evolved. As things moved on, it wasn't long before we were in World War I and while the men were away at war, the women formed groups and did Red Cross work and sent many parcels overseas.

In 1914 Mark Atkinson came to Canada from Ottringham, England, to the Vegreville district. He



Mr. and Mrs. Henry Trenhaile in cutter, 1928.



Frank Dennis' steam engine and threshing machine on George Johnson's farm, 1900.

worked out for a time and then rented Grandpa Cole's farm, which he later bought. In 1920 he returned to England for a visit but came back to Canada in the spring of 1921. He married my sister, Pearl Trenhaile, on May 5, 1921, and they lived on the farm until 1956 when Mark suddenly passed away. He had been a successful farmer, specializing in Jersey cattle, one of which won a gold medal, and another in later years won two silver and one gold and a ton of gold. Since Mark's death, Pearl has lived in Vegreville, always busy knitting and making quilts for the younger members of our family.

George Welburn Johnson was born in Binscarth, Manitoba, but moved to England as an infant when his parents returned to their home in Beverley, East Yorkshire, England, with their children. During World War I he served in the British Army which included the Infantry in Egypt and the Machine Gun Forces in France. In 1918 he came to Canada to the Vegreville district, working in the Leachville community. He was employed on various farms until we were married on November 15, 1922, when we settled on a farm near my parents' place, where our house was built and where we carried on mixed



Cutting wood — Henry Trenhaile holding grandson, Gordon Johnson. Erick Blomquist, George Johnson and Mark Atkinson in background, 1930.

farming. George was a member of the Veteran Guard of Canada from 1940 until 1946, and also belonged to the Vegreville Branch of the Canadian Legion. Because of George's poor health we moved to Vegreville in 1956 and after a lengthy illness he passed away in 1960.

Our years on the farm were busy, breaking land, putting up buildings and forever fencing. Along with the work there were many lighthearted moments. In the Twenties, among other entertainment, was what was called "Chautauqua". They arrived with a huge tent and held their entertainment inside on a large stage. There were speakers on many subjects, singers, dancers and plays which we enjoyed for a full week or ten days, both afternoon and evening. Following the Twenties came the "Dirty Thirties". The Camrose train that came across country to Vegreville passed near our place and we have sat on our front steps and counted as many as a hundred men riding on top of the railroad cars. They weren't tramps either, just good chaps, many with a good education, but all looking for work. Because the railroad tracks ran close to our farm we also had many young (and some not so young) men asking for a meal. I don't think any farm wife ever sent them away hungry. Even a hail storm could have its brighter side — the crop might be lying flat from hail, but several times we used the hail stones to make a freezer of ice-cream, trying to turn disaster into a lighter moment.

It was during the Thirties that Alida Hall (named in honour of Alida Cole who donated the land for it) was built and the Alida Women's Institute was formed. Mrs. E. E. Morton helped organize the first meeting of the Alida W. I. on August 28, 1935, and the first project was to make a quilt to be raffled, and Pearl Atkinson hooked a rug which was also raffled and brought in \$45.00. For the first few years the Institute worked mainly to get Alida Hall finished,

furnished and ready for use. During these years it became the centre of community activity: dances were held during the summer, chicken suppers in the autumn, and card parties in the winter months. Our years in the Alida District were happy ones — our association with friends and neighbors, social activities, working together — it all helped the depression years to pass and left some very pleasant memories.

On August 4, 1940, Alida Cole (known to everyone as “Grandma Cole”) passed away at the age of

95. She had lived the last eighteen years of her life with Nellie and Henry Trenhaile. She left 14 grandchildren, 20 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild. Her exemplary life influenced all who followed her.

Dad and Mother continued on the farm until 1943, but due to failing health they sold the farm and, following a time spent in Kelowna, settled in the town of Vegreville. Dad died on November 24th, 1946, four weeks following the celebration of the Golden Wedding Anniversary of Henry Thomas Trenhaile and Nellie Alida Trenhaile. He was 74 years of age. During all his years in Vegreville he was known as “Hank” to all his friends and neighbours. Mother carried on in their home until she came to live with George and me, where she stayed until her death on April 23, 1953.

Our daughter, Eileen, was born May 12, 1924, and attended Inland School during her elementary grades, then completed High School in Vegreville.

Eileen, a legal secretary on a part-time basis, is married to John (Jack) Lawrence who is Section Plant Manager for A.G.T. and they have three children, Lenore, Alan and Christina (Tina). Lenore and Alan are married and Tina is in Grade 9.

A son, Gordon Leonard, was born October 30, 1927, and died in August, 1931.

A second son, Lorne Welburn, was born January 25, 1935. He also attended school in Inland and Vegreville.

Lorne is Box Office Manager for the Edmonton Exhibition Association and is married to the former Gloria Tomashawsky and they have two children, Reed in Grade 9 and Robin in Grade 7. I also have three great-grandchildren. I have lived in Vegreville since George died.

Some years ago in a letter from Eileen she remarked how quickly we forget and how much everything has changed. She quoted a couple of paragraphs from “The Moonflower Vine” as follows:

“I remember the kitchen on a winter morning — coal buckets underfoot, the bucket for slops near the door, water boiling on the big black range, my father shaving at the kitchen table, and I, in my petticoat, washing myself in the grey enamel pan, while my mother fired bacon.

“The kitchen was not a gracious room. It was bathroom, dining room, laundry and dairy, each in turn or all at once. This was in winter. In summer, life expanded outside in the shade of the maple tree. You could iron in the breeze on the back porch. The house grew taller, wider, prettier.”



Mark Atkinson with his prize Jersey, 1954.



Mark Atkinson with 2 of his special Jersey heifers, 1938.



George Johnson with grandson Allen and granddaughter Lenore, hauling feed for cattle, 1953.



Leachville Red Cross Society taken at Henry Trenhaile's home, 1918, W. W. I. Some ladies present are: Grace Dodge, Mrs. John Shaw, Nellie Trenhaile, Carrie Cole, Grace Johnson, Mrs. Stewart, Mrs. Hacker (visitor), Mrs. Tom Selph, Mrs. Martha Fogal, Alida Cole, Ettie Leach. The little girls are Margaret and Frances Hacker.

Trimble, Gail and Marlene

Gail Trimble was born on April 22, 1941 in Vegreville. In a family of seven children, Gail was the second oldest boy and took over the farming after his dad, a long-time resident and farmer, Ormie Trimble, passed away in 1965. As a child Gail was very active in 4-H Dairy, Beef and Swine Clubs for a number of years. He raised registered Holsteins, registered Tamworth hogs, and took in every curling bonspiel he could squeeze into the time he had.

He was a patient in St. Josephs General Hospital in March of 1966 where he met his wife, Marlene Urban, a graduate from the Calgary School of Certified Nursing Aides in May of 1963.

Marlene was born in Taber, Alberta on August 30, 1945 and moved to Lethbridge where she lived until she went into Nursing. She moved to Vegreville in 1965 where she met Gail in the hospital. They were married on October 22, 1966 in the Vegreville United Church.

In March of 1967 the family house which was a landmark by Highway 16 for many years, was moved across the field to make way for widening the highway. Even an older landmark were the three very big spruce trees on the corner. This was known to every-

one as "Trimble Corner". These stood there for fifty years. They were pushed down to make way for the Highway on September 29, 1973.

Gail and Marlene have three boys — Richard, born April 12, 1967. He is a grade six student at St. Mary's School. Kevin was born on March 30, 1968. He is a grade five student at the Peter Svarich School. Aaron was born on March 30, 1970 and is a grade three student at the Queen Elizabeth School. They are all active in sports, and enjoy following their father's footsteps all over the farm.

Gail still farms the home quarter and has worked at the tire shop for fifteen years. He is an active member in community projects, belongs to the Park Grove Unifarm, curls in the winter time, and is on the board of the Rural Fire Association for the past six years.

Marlene works for Statistics Canada in Edmonton. She makes all her own clothes, is an active member in community projects, belongs to the Park Grove Ladies of Unifarm and keeps generally busy with her family.

Trimble, Glen Robert

I was born in Vegreville, Alberta, at the R.M.B. Hospital October 21, 1935, the only son of Roy and

Ada Trimble. We moved near Edmonton just before I started Grade 1. I attended Grade 1 at East Edmonton School. Two years later we moved to the farm just west of Vegreville; we lived there for six months and I attended Ryan School. We then moved back to Edmonton and the rest of my schooling was at East Edmonton School and Strathcona High School. I resided on the NW 12-52-24 W4 in what is now Millwoods area of Edmonton until I was married. I was a member of the East Edmonton 4-H Dairy Calf Club for a number of years and also showed calves at the Edmonton spring show.

During the winters of 1954-55 and 1955-56 I attended Vermilion School of Agriculture. After graduating from V.S.A. I worked at several places, including Hood Motors in the parts department and Western Archrib Structures. In the spring of 1959 I started working as an AI Technician with Edmonton Artificial Breeding Association and continued to work for AI for 14 years.

I was married on June 8, 1963, to Ann Hemingway from Outlook, Saskatchewan. We were married in Grace United Church in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Ann worked in Saskatoon as a Legal Secretary before coming to Edmonton in 1961 where she continued to be employed as a Legal Secretary.

We have two daughters, Heather Ann born June 5, 1965, and Joanne Lee born December 28, 1967.

We resided in the Avonmore District of Edmonton until moving to the Leduc District in November of 1969 to the SE 13-49-25 W4th where we presently reside. We started a cattle operation, both purchasing our own cattle and boarding cattle. As well as cattle we periodically boarded sheep and pigs. In the fall of 1971 we started breeding Chianina. In the fall of 1974 we were able to import our first four purebred Chianina from Italy and have been up-grading our percentage animals and increasing our purebreds. We have sold animals (mostly purebreds) to cattlemen in Alberta, British Columbia and the United States.

Ann is back working as a Legal Secretary in Leduc and in the spring of 1975 I bought a Bobcat loader and have been landscaping, digging holes and doing a variety of other jobs with the Bobcat in the Town of Leduc and surrounding area.

I was a member of the Salisbury United Church and am now a member of St. David's United in Leduc.

I have been active in curling for several years and am still curling at the Leduc Club.

Trimble, Ormy and Mildred by Mildred Tuck Trimble Gillyean

Ormy Trimble and I were married in 1937 and

lived on the Vegreville farm where Ormy had lived with his father, mother, brothers and sisters. We had a mixed farming operation and always had a herd of Holsteins and a flock of chickens. We supplied hatching eggs to the Co-op Hatchery in Edmonton. Ormy liked horses so he combined raising horses with raising chickens. The kids belonged to the 4-H Dairy Club. They were kept busy on the farm and didn't spend much time away from home until they grew up and went their separate ways. Ormy died in 1964. Gail and I farmed together until he married in 1966. I was employed as House Mother at the Nurses Residence in Vegreville until the school closed out in 1971. In September of that year I took on the position of Matron of Jubilee Home at Lloydminster, Saskatchewan. I married John Gillyean in 1972 and retired in 1976. John and I continued to farm the Gully farm in Saskatchewan. This is a very pretty place both summer and winter. We have the protection of lots of trees which I appreciate after spending so much of my life in our wind-swept farmstead at Vegreville. We are close enough to our children and grandchildren to enjoy get-togethers and to get to know our grandchildren of which we share 26. Good health continues to bless us and we are looking forward to a life of semi-retirement.



Mother Jessie Tuck and children: Max, Eva, Bunny, Mildred, Jean. Quite a load for horse, Maud, early 1920's.



4H Achievement Day at Ormy Trimble's — (l. to r.): Hazel, Orvil, Myrna, Gail, 1954.

Our children went to Vegreville schools.

Myrna: Attended Vermilion Vocational School and graduated in Home Economics. She clerked at the Co-op store in Vegreville and at Craig's in Vermilion. She married Mitchel Bendixen. They live at Marwayne and have two girls, Dawn and Yvonne.



Trimble family in their McLaughlin car, 1915.



After a storm, Ormy Trimble children — (l. to r.) — Wade, Hazel, Myrna with Marvin, Orvil, Gail with Stella, 1950.



Picnic at Beaver Lake, about 1929. Thelma Trimble, Jim Richardson, Ormie Trimble, Elizabeth Richardson, Hazel Trimble, others unknown.

Orvil: Found employment with Canadian Utilities at Vegreville. He married Annette Pelletier and later was transferred to St. Paul. He left Canadian Utilities in 1978 and went into business. They have four children, Kendall, Leanne, Brian and Lloyd.

Gail: Stayed with the farm. His Dad's health was failing and Gail was quite satisfied to work with him. After Ormy's death, Gail worked part-time with Bruce Bird in his Tire Shop. He married Marlene Oslensky. Gail gradually cut down on his farming operations. He changed from dairy cattle to beef and works full time at the Tire Shop. They have three boys, Richard, Kevin and Aaron.

Hazel: Married Art Rodwell and lived in Vegreville, Wainwright, Grande Prairie and finally settling in Edson. They have five children, Gordon, Francine, Grant, Brian and Carla. Art died in 1972 and Hazel makes a living for her family with the Alberta Liquor Control Board, first with the Edson store and in 1979 was appointed Manager of the Vilna store. She is the first woman Manager in Alberta.

Wade: Started his career training for an AI Technician under Tom Biglands. He left that job to clerk in the Co-op Store in Vegreville and Wainwright. He left Co-op and was employed as a salesman for Nelson Lumber at Lloydminster, then at St. Albert. In 1978 he went into a family business at Tomahawk. He married Carol Meadowcroft and they have four children, Brenda, Daniel, Gerald and Vern.

Stella: Took education at the University of Alberta and taught school in Calgary until her marriage to Larry Dalsto. They live at Lynn Lake, Manitoba. She teaches school when her family duties are not too heavy. They have two girls, Shelly and Carrie.

Marvin: Has his degree in Education from the University of Alberta. He married Shirley Clark. They have two girls, Lori and Donna and live at Ardrossan. He teaches school at Sherwood Park.

Trimble, Roy and Ada by Roy and Ada Trimble

Roy Trimble was born in 1897 in a log house in the Clearwater District, eighteen miles south-east of Edmonton. His parents, John and Annie Trimble, in 1895 took up a homestead on the south-west quarter of Section 4, Township 50, Range 24, West of the 4th Meridian; also his grandparents, James Andrew Trimble, took up a homestead there on the south-west quarter Section 12, Township 50, Range 24, West of the 4th Meridian. In 1903 Roy with his parents, his brother Ormy and sister Beulah, moved to Vegreville. Seven more children were born. Roy was the eldest of a family of ten, so he knew at an early age what work was.

Roy had rheumatic fever when he was thirteen



First Troop "C" Squadron 19, Alberta Dragoons, 1917. Some known faces — Top row (l. to r.): 1. Gregory Brown, 5. Si Richardson, 6. Fred Wise. Middle Row (l. to r.): 1. John Leach — teacher at Leachville School, 5. Roy Trimble, 6. John Trimble. Front row (l. to r.): Ormy Trimble (reclining).

years of age and had to go to a lower altitude, so he went to stay with his Grandfather and an Uncle at Yakima, Washington. He attended school there one year; the other children laughed when he said "Zed" instead of the American "Zee".

Roy attended Vermilion School of Agriculture in 1912, the first year it was opened. In 1963 Roy and his wife Ada went to the 50th Anniversary reunion, a three-day affair where he met many ex-students and teachers. After Agriculture School, Roy worked on his parents' farm.

During the war in 1917 he was in the 19th Alberta Dragoons. In April, 1918, he enlisted in the Army, then got time off to help put in the crop, then went to Sarcee Camp in Calgary, then to Petawawa Camp in Ontario. In August he went overseas; 300 men crossed the ocean in a cattle boat. He trained in England at Bramshot.

He came home in June, 1919. His father died three weeks after he arrived home. Roy worked helping at home and worked away from home for farmers, also went to Ontario to work in the bush in winter.

In 1923 he bought a quarter-section through the Soldier Settlement Board, the north-west quarter of Section 27, Township 52, Range 15, West of the 4th Meridian, four miles west of Vegreville. There, being only an old log house, he built a four-room house. A neighbor, Jesse Bowen, helped him.

One year shortly after buying the land Roy had an



Brushing the road allowance to make a roadway the next summer, 1905.



Mr. and Mrs. John Trimble and children Roy, Beulah and Ormy (baby), 1902.



The Trimbles digging potatoes, 1911. Roy (tallest) and Ormy (shorter).

operation and the neighbors had a “bee” and put in the crop for him. He batched part of the time until 1930 when he married Ada Briggs of South Edmonton, so they started married life in ‘the Depression’ and had no car or telephone for several years. They had one son, Glen, born in 1935.

In 1943 they sold their farm and had an auction sale and moved near Edmonton. After one and one-half years of working out at various jobs, running a big grain cleaner from farm to farm cleaning grain, working on the roads and for farmers, they bought the north-west quarter of Section 12, Township 52, Range 23, West of the 4th Meridian. It was six miles south of South Edmonton in what is now Mill Woods.

It was a mixed farm — selling chickens, eggs, pigs, milking cows, selling cream, also some vegetables and small fruits.

In 1956 Roy came first in a “Save the Soil”



Load of rails cut in bush, to be sawed and split for firewood to burn in coal and wood stove for baking and heating, 1932.



Glen Trimble with his 4H Club calf which won 1st. prize, 1949.

campaign in an area surrounding Edmonton, winning a certificate, a silver cup and cash award.

In 1960 Roy had a number of operations so as a result had to quit farming but continued to live on the farm and had a big yard and garden, apple trees and small fruits.

In 1969 the city bought their quarter-section.

In 1963 their son Glen was married to Ann Hemingway from Saskatchewan. They have two daughters, Heather born in 1965 and Joanne born in 1967.

In 1969 the Glen Trimble family bought the south-east quarter of Section 13, Township 49, Range 25, West of the 4th Meridian, two miles south of Leduc.

In 1974 Roy and Ada moved to Pioneer Court in Sherwood Park and lived in a condominium for senior citizens.

Roy and Ada Trimble did a little travelling in the 1960's, went to visit relatives in B.C. by bus and train several times. In 1967, they flew out to Penticton to a wedding of Floyd Trimble's oldest daughter and later to another daughter's wedding. In 1970 they had a trip to Hawaii for a month which was very enjoyable. In 1971 they went to California, to a cousin who was



In the Militia, about 1915. (L. to r.) — Roy Trimble, Army Trimble, Fred Wise.

retired, and stayed a month. He was a bachelor and took them on a trip every day, so they were able to see a lot. Then they had several more flying trips to Penticton, Vancouver and Victoria and Seattle where they met Roy's brother's wife and they took them to see the sights by car or camper. They were so glad they travelled while they had good health.

In January, 1979, Roy's sister Thelma Watts died. On September 23, Roy died after two weeks in hospital of a cardiac arrest at the age of 82. Roy leaves to mourn his loss his loving wife Ada of Clover Bar Pioneer Court, Sherwood Park; one son Glen and daughter-in-law Ann of Leduc; two grandchildren Heather and Joanne; two sisters Mrs. Beulah Stickney of Fort Langley, B.C., and Mrs. Hazel Walsby of Mission City, B.C.; one brother, Jock of Keremeos, B.C.; numerous nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by Mother and Father and three brothers and three sisters.

Triska, Peter and Katherine by Mary Goshko and Anne Zubresky

Peter Triska, the youngest child of Alexis (Louis) Triska and Anna Didyk, was born in Wolochkiwsi, Sniatyn, West Ukraine. At the age of nineteen in 1907, he decided to join his father, his brother William, and sister and brother-in-law Dora and Mike Hymanyk, in coming to Canada. Mary Ruryk, the oldest daughter of his sister Helen (Nick) Ruryk, came with them as well. After travelling by boat to Halifax, Nova Scotia, they boarded the train to Vermilion, Alberta, where they were met by old friends. They settled in the Slawa area, which is west of Derwent. Since Peter was too young to qualify for a homestead, he farmed with his father.

In 1908 Peter married Katherine Hawryluk, daughter of George and Mary Hawryluk of Slawa, who were from Kniaze, Sniatyn, Ukraine. Following their marriage, his father, Alexis (Louis) Triska, de-



Peter and Katherine Triska on their farm at Slawa where they lived before they moved to Vegreville, 1946.

cided to sell his farm (NE 35-54-8) to Peter and return to the "old country" to rejoin his wife Anna (Didyk) who did not accompany them on their venture to Canada.

Peter and Katherine had many hardships during their farming years. With the drought and depression it was difficult to make ends meet. Their children, however, helped as they grew up.

In 1950 they sold their Slawa Farm to Bill and Anne Lesyk and moved to Vegreville where they retired.

Peter and Katherine were active members of the Ukrainian Orthodox church at Slawa and at Vegreville. Peter had a good singing voice and served as cantor (dyak). He often attended the priest during the celebration of the Liturgy as well.

The Triskas were blessed with a happy, healthy family. Three children however, Nick, Pearl, and Irene died in infancy while nine grew to adulthood and are still enjoying good health: Anne (Joe Zubresky), Mary (Andrew Goshko), Olga (Mike Klutz), George, Irene (Lester Sanderson), William, Elizabeth (William Cherniwchan), Donna (William Dach), and Marshall.

Anne Triska was born in Slawa, Alberta, December 3, 1909. She attended school only for a few years because her help was needed on the family farm. Anne married Joseph Zubresky January 23, 1927. Joseph Zubresky had come to Canada in 1910 with the Nick Montaine family. He first worked in Win-



Orest Zubritsky discing the land with 6 horses on a farm by Royal Park, 1947.

nipeg, then went on to Edmonton, where he worked as a chef at the Royal George Hotel. Joseph also tried his hand at business — a shoe repair shop at Mundare. In 1928, Anne and Joseph bought their own farm at Slawa, near Anne's parents. There they farmed for almost twenty years. Both were actively involved in the Ukrainian community life of Slawa. Joseph helped in the building of the Slawa church and National Hall. He was also a school trustee on the Zora School board. They raised four children: Orest, Nestor, Elsie, and Lillian. In 1947 they sold the Slawa family farm and moved to Royal Park where they rented land for four years. They moved into Vegreville in 1951 where they built their house. For a few years they both worked in town and became good members of the Ukrainian Orthodox parish. Joseph Zubresky passed away in January, 1972, at the age of 87. Anne now lives at the Parkview Manor in Vegreville. Her sons Orest and Nestor work and live in Vegreville. Elsie and Lillian, with their children, live in Edmonton.

Mary Goshko's story appears in this book.

Olga Triska also attended Zora school for only a few years and then helped with the family income by working for other farming families. She married Mike Klutz. They farmed in the Derwent district, then moved into Vegreville and worked in town. Olga and Mike raised three children: Angeline, Leslie, and Terry. The Klutz's now reside in High Prairie, Alberta.

George Triska was the second son born to Peter and Katherine Triska. He attended Zora school, then stayed home to help his father work the family farm. During World War II he joined the Canadian Army and served his country until 1945. Upon returning

home, he worked at various jobs. He was married in 1946 and had one daughter, Audrey.

Irene Triska, the eighth child, completed her schooling at Zora and moved to Edmonton, where she worked. She met Lester Sanderson of Montana, who was with the U. S. Army stationed in Edmonton. Irene and Lester were married in May, 1943, at Vegreville. Shortly after, Lester was transferred back to Montana and there they settled and made their home.

William Triska, after completing his schooling, also left home to find work in Vegreville. Shortly after, Bill bought a truck and started a livestock and grain hauling business. He got married in 1958 to Sonya Hrebeniuk. They have five children: David, Elaine, Connie, Debbie, and Monica. In 1975 Bill and Sonya went into the furniture business. Bill leads a busy and active life. He is one of Vegreville's town councillors, for the second term. Like his father, he too enjoys singing and is a member of the church choir.

Elizabeth Triska left Slawa after completing her schooling, to stay with her older sister Mary Goshko, who farmed near Vegreville. Elizabeth worked in the town Co-op store. She married William Cherniwchan (son of Peter and Maria Cherniwchan of Royal Park) in 1948. In 1950 they bought a farm. They raised three sons: David, Allan, and Denis. Elizabeth and Bill now live in Port Coquitlam, B.C.

Donna Triska attended school only a few years. She, too, was needed at home to help with the work. Donna married William Dach in 1946. They farmed together with William's parents on the Dach homestead, then bought their own farm near Lloydminster. There they settled and have a family of five children: Harry, Christine, Orest, Edward, and Patricia.

Marshall, the youngest child of Peter and Katherine Triska, was fortunate to attend Zora School and the new Slawa High School. He, too, helped to work on the family farm until 1950 when his parents retired and moved into Vegreville. Marshall worked at various jobs. In July, 1958, he married Victoria Palahniuk. He became active in the church choir and drama group. Like his father, he too took interest in serving as a church cantor. Marshall and Victoria are now farming close to Vegreville and have three children: Joanna, Antonia, and Ihor.

Katherine's failing health in her older years made it necessary for her to spend some time in the Vegreville Nursing Home. In February 1975, she passed away at the age of 83 years.

Peter's later years were spent in the Homestead Lodge, followed by care in the Minburn Auxiliary Hospital. He passed away in April of 1977 at the age of 88 years.

Triska, William and Family by Mrs. Joseph M. (Helen Triska) Lazarenko

Alexis (Lesio) Triska was a resident of the village of Wolchkiwtsi, Sniatyn, Western Ukraine, then under Austria. His wife, Anna, nee Didyk, was born in 1852 and passed away in 1902. Alexis was born in 1832 and died in 1919. They named their oldest son, William, after his grandfather. In 1907, having received correspondence from Canada concerning big tracts of land being available for each person over twenty-one years on payment of ten dollars, he decided to emigrate to that land of opportunity.

He sold enough land to pay the transportation to Canada for himself and his two grown sons, William and Peter. His daughter, Dora, her husband, Mike Hymanyk and Alexia's grown-up granddaughter, Maria Ruryk, later Mrs. Nick Cherniawsky, emigrated at the same time in 1907 via Halifax, Nova Scotia, coming to the West by train to Vermilion, Alberta, where those already in Canada from the same village met them. After arriving in Alberta, Alexis and his son William got homesteads north of Derwent, later known as Brierfield School District. Peter did not qualify as he was under twenty-one years of age so he farmed with his father. William turned twenty-one on July 12, 1907. Alexis still had enough money left to buy one set of machinery and a team of horses. William went out on his own, earned some money and bought his own equipment and livestock.

At that time, there was a villager, Nicholas Markowsky, of Mundare, Alberta, who visited them and said he knew of a pretty maiden living in the Sich School District who would make a lovely wife. She was Pauline Aronitz, daughter of Harry and Olen? Aronitz, and granddaughter of Mykyta Gordica and Kalyna nee Shewchuck. She emigrated to Canada with her parents in 1900 at the age of nine from the village of Vedeniv, Sniatyn, Ukraine, Austria. William Triska and Pauline Aronitz were married by Reverend T. Tymochko on November 12, 1907, at the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Mundare. Nicholas Markowsky and Nicephor Chilibecki of Vegreville, Alberta, acted as witnesses. After Peter was married, Alexis returned to the Old Country, leaving his farm to Peter, machinery and all.

In a number of years there were many acres of land broken and cultivated. The land was good, but the transportation of grain to the elevators was a great burden, being thirty miles or more to Vermilion. Those roads were hilly and difficult. William decided that he would move as he had enough trouble struggling up and down the hills and gullies. In 1916, having found a farm seven miles north of Vegreville,



The Triska family in 1941. Front row (l. to r.) — Edward, Joe, William (father), Pauline (mother), Elsie, and grandson Gerald Triska. Second row — Mike, Lena, Joseph Lazarenko (Helen's husband), Sophie (Dan's wife), and William Jr. Third row — Helen, Russell Goshko (Anne's husband), Mary, Dan, and Anne. One son, Louis was absent. One year later William Sr. passed away.

he moved to the north-east quarter of Section 10, Township 53, Range 15, west of the 4th Meridian. Mr. L. B. Pulkrabek, its owner, decided to sell this quarter of land as his house had burned down and he had no place to live.

William and Pauline, young and energetic, quickly built a shack of logs with a roof of poles and sod to accommodate themselves and their three children, Dan, Helen and Anne, until something better was built. Later he built other buildings, a small house, a big one, triple barns for his livestock, machinery shed and a granary all of logs.

When Dan was seven years old he was compelled to go to school. He would not go alone so Helen, his five-year-old sister, went with him to Park Grove School. As they did not know any English, their first year was quite difficult. In time, William and his children could communicate with their English-speaking neighbours and friends.

The Triskas lived only a half-mile west so their children walked to school. In summer, the children of Elmer Meyer, Howard McLeery and Maxim Zalizniak would drive to school in buggies, each pulled by one horse. They lived over three miles from school. In winter, their fathers took turns hauling them to school in a large bob sled with a team of horses, returning for them after class as it was too cold for the horses to stand all day. The Triska children were offered rides so they joined in the fun in a big sleigh box full of kids standing upright, some running behind, and some riding with one foot on the

sleigh runner, with the other foot making tracks in the snow.

As time went on, the Triska family increased to five daughters and six sons, all attending Park Grove School in their junior grades. Their higher education was obtained in Vegreville, Mundare and Vermilion.

Some of the janitorial work at school was handed down in the Triska family from one to another, thus earning their own spending money. Wages, which at the time were 25 cents per day for starting the fire in the wood and coal furnace and maintaining regular heat during classes, usually added up to \$5.50 per month. Two big girls swept the school each day with each taking half of the floor lengthwise. Their pay was one dollar each by cheque at the end of the month. There was a Helen Shaw at school when Helen Triska arrived, so to save confusion, she was



William and Pauline (Aronitz) Triska, about 1920.



Appreciating the family history. Moira Verwijk (Elsie's daughter) and Wanda Triska (Edward's daughter) in front of the "Old House" — the first house built by William and Pauline Triska. It had an indoor built-in oven. After the new house was built, the boys slept in this house, 1979.

called Helena. She is still occasionally called Helena.

Dan and Helen, the two eldest of the children, stayed home to help with the work on the farm, while the next three, Anne, Lena and Mike went to high school in Vegreville. Some younger ones went to Park Grove. Dan took a short course in mechanics during the winter in Edmonton, Alberta. This course came in handy to his father, William, when he purchased a new McCormick-Deering tractor.

Helen went to the School of Agriculture in Vermilion to take Household Economics which included sewing, cooking, and laundry which proved to be a great help to the family. She made many pretty clothes for the girls and for her mother. After six years at home, Helen went to train as a nurse.

Dan proved to be an accomplished musician, playing the violin both by ear and by notes, studying under Mrs. Bertha Clements' guidance. He had, and still has, the delicate touch needed to make the violin speak. Dan and Mae Trimble, a pianist, used to play for dances in the Park Grove School.

William Triska was liked by all, for he was always ready to help others whenever he could, with a kind word for all. During the Spanish Influenza in 1918, he got a call from the Charles E. Shaw family, one mile south, to come to do their chores and care for the livestock. Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Shaw and their children, Helen, Elizabeth (Bessie), Kathleen and Buster were all sick and could not leave the house. William helped them in the morning and in the evening for a week or so until they recuperated.

Mr. Shaw was a druggist and owner of Vegreville Drug Co. in Vegreville. The drug store was a few doors south of the Alberta hotel. His other sons were serving in the First World war. Buster, the youngest of their boys, was allowed to remain at home to run the farm.

William was a very knowledgeable man in Animal Husbandry; he knew what to do when animals got sick. His first-aid to animals was known far and wide. The farmers would come after work, pick him up to attend to their animals and then bring him back. In those days, livestock was a precious commodity.

Now a word about Pauline; she had to be a thrifty mother, indeed, in order to feed and clothe so many children. She sewed combinations for the boys and some pretty dresses for the girls, planted the garden, laundered the clothes, and attended to the chickens and geese. Later, Helen helped her. All the family helped to milk the cows and feed the pigs.

Besides caring for her own family, she found herself in the position of being a midwife for a younger mother who was on her way to Vegreville Hospital. But the stork intercepted and they were

compelled to stop at the Triskas'. There was no time to call the doctor, so Pauline did the best that she could.

She cared for the mother and babe until both were well enough to go home. Pauline herself once was confined at home with Dr. R. M. Reid in attendance, so she knew more or less what had to be done.

William and Pauline believed in giving their children the best schooling possible. William, himself, was well-educated in the old country.

Most of their children are living in various parts of Canada and are doing well in their chosen fields of endeavour.

— Dan, a farmer, now retired and enjoying his violin in Edmonton, Alberta.

— Helen (Mrs. J. M. Lazarenko) a nurse, now retired and enjoying her grandsons in Edmonton, Alberta.

— Anne (Mrs. R. Goshko), a nurse, now retired and busy with activities in Vegreville, Alberta.

— Lena (Mrs. A. Sawchuk), a hairdresser, now retired but knitting for her grandchildren while living on a farm near Mundare, Alberta.

— Mike (married to Kathryn Kaluzny), a tool and die superintendant at the Caterpillar Tractor Company in Oswego, Illinois, in the United States.

— William Jr. (married to Greta Ball), an electrician who resides at Langton, Ontario.

— Mary (Mrs. M. Kaluzny), a cook who resides in Hamilton, Ontario.

— Louis (married to Mary Tkachuk), a machinist who resides in Edmonton, Alberta.

— Joseph (married to Theresa Sawchuk), business office supervisor in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

— Elsie (Mrs. F. Verwijk), a nurse who still practices her profession in Edmonton, Alberta.

— Edward (married to Rose Lopushanski), a high school teacher who resides in Troy, Ontario.

Helen and Anne trained to be registered nurses in the Vegreville General Hospital in the early thirties. They both trained under Sisters Madeline, Beatrice and Josephine, who were members of the Sisters of Charity of Evron. The medical men at that time were: Dr. John Yak (Yakimischak), Dr. A. Couillard, Dr. R. K. B. Knowles, and Dr. R. M. Reid.

William used to sign his name by using a large "W" followed with a small "m" (Wm) or Wasyl. He corresponded with his sister and relatives in the Ukraine and was a sponsor for three of his nephews, Nick and Bill Ruryk and Nick Cherniawsky, enabling them to come to Canada, sharing his home until they went out on their own. They always appreciated the welcome at their uncle's place, returning to visit him many a time, often calling it their "home".

About the time William was making plans for his

retirement to make his life a little easier, he got sick but thought it was just a chest cold. As he could not seem to shake it off, he went for medical aid. They found his condition incurable. He passed away on June 1, 1942 at the age of fifty-five. It was a great loss to his family, and to all who knew him.

On hearing of his dad's critical illness, Mike (Michael) came home to be with him and to help with the chores. At that time, William owned a Hereford bull with horns. He was usually taken care of by William Jr. The day after William died, June 2, 1942, Mike took the bull from the barn to the corral behind the barn. The bull went mad and gored Mike in the right side of his chest. He was rushed to the hospital at Vegreville where he remained in a critical condition for many days. Under Dr. Yak's excellent care and the attentiveness of all the nurses, Mike recovered.

Pauline was left with the heavy responsibility of raising the three youngest children: Joe — fourteen, Elsie — twelve, and Edward — ten years of age. She left the farm in the care of Dan and moved to Mundare, Alberta, where she was able to provide the three children with a high school education. The family farm was sold in 1957 to Gordon Ziegler. She lived with Edward and kept house for him while he attended university. As the years went by she had the opportunity of living with some of her other children as well.

Soon after the Homestead Lodge was built for Senior Citizens in the Town of Vegreville, Alberta, in 1961, Pauline, being of an independent nature, made it her new home. She was a resident at the Lodge for almost eighteen years, during which time she made many patchwork quilts for her family. These quilts are a useful and wonderful souvenir from their mother, and great-grandmother.

In 1979, Pauline moved to the Mundare Senior Citizens Home where there is a church, stores and a hospital, all close by and within easy walking distance for a woman of eighty-nine years.

Pauline is still in fairly good health, which enables her to enjoy a short holiday or an outing with her family. Likewise, she enjoys visits with her relatives and friends.

The Triska adult grandchildren are important citizens in various walks of life too. Some are nurses, teachers, farmers, university students, chartered accountants, nutritionists and businessmen and women — just to mention a few of their occupations. There are thirty-eight grandchildren and thirty-one great-grandchildren.

William's brother, Peter Triska, and his wife came to Vegreville much later. Consequently, this

article does not cover him or his family, although some of their children now reside in that area.

If William Triska were here today, he would be proud of the achievements of his wife, and his family, and the lives that they have carved out for themselves and their children in this promised land of Canada.

First child, Dan

Dan married Sophie Bartman and farmed in the Park Grove District.

In the late 1940's they bought a farm from Art Payne and moved closer to Vegreville.

Dan had a band and played at the local dances, changing off from violin to saxophone. Sophie nursed at the local hospital.

They have three children: Gerald, Joan and Carolyn.

Gerald completed high school in Vegreville. He was a very talented young man who learned to play the violin, piano, clarinet and saxophone. He played for dances with the local band. He served in the Canadian Armed Force for a few years after which he married Patricia Sayko of Vegreville. They had two daughters, Theresa and Shelley.

Joan completed all her schooling in Vegreville as



Dan and Sophie (Bartman) Triska and children Joan, Gerald and Carolyn, 1954.



The three Triska brothers playing the violins at Joe's 25th wedding anniversary in Winnipeg, 1975. (L. to r.) — Mike, Dan and Joe.

well as having taken piano lessons. She was gifted with a beautiful voice and was called upon to sing whenever there was a concert or a special occasion. She attended the University of Alberta and obtained her B.A. and teaching certificate. She is presently teaching music and Ukrainian in Edmonton. Joan married Kenneth Kerr and they have two children, Robert and Melaney.

Carolyn is the youngest of the three children. She also took piano lessons and High School in Vegreville and belonged to various clubs. Carolyn



Gerald and Patricia (Sayko) Triska and daughters Theresa and Shelley, 1966.

was a handy girl outdoors. She helped her father do chores, drive the tractor, haul bales, etc. Carolyn, after completing high school, entered the School of Nursing at St. Joseph's General Hospital, Vegreville. She graduated as a nurse and worked at the Mannville Hospital. She married Barry McDonald in 1969 and the two are engaged in grain and dairy farming in the Mannville area. She nursed at Myrnam. Carolyn and Barry have three children: Darcy, Corrine, and Matea.

Second child, Helen

by Helen

Helen, married to Joseph Lazarenko, is the second child of the late William and Pauline Triska. In 1930 she graduated from the School of Agriculture at Vermilion, Alberta, where she won valuable prizes in cooking and sewing. In 1933 Helen graduated in nursing from the Vegreville General Hospital and received her Registered Nurses Diploma. As a nurse she excelled in all phases of nursing, gaining the confidence of all the patients whom she attended. At the General Hospital in Vegreville she won first prize for theory in nursing, then remained on the Hospital staff until 1936. She also served for one year (1935) as night supervisor of that hospital. For two years Helen nursed at Westlock. In 1938 she was appointed a school nurse by Two Hills School Division No 21.

There she examined the young children as she visited the forty-nine schools in her Model A. Ford. In 1939-40, she was president of the Vegreville Alumnae of Nurses.



Family of Joseph and Helen (Triska) Lazarenko in 1975. (L. to r.) — grandsons — Darren, Perry and Marlow sitting. Adults — Helen (Triska) Lazarenko sitting, husband Joseph, Ferne Lazarenko, Winston Gereluk and Cynthia (Lazarenko) Gereluk - parents of the 3 boys.

In June 1940, Helen was married to Joseph M. Lazarenko, a lawyer, practicing law in Myrnam, Alberta.

During the War years, 1939 to 1945, she gave instructions to the local women in first-aid, Home Nursing, and helped in the operating room in the Myrnam Hospital because of the acute shortage of nurses. Helen was a president of the Myrnam Ladies Organization which did knitting and sewing for the Red Cross and purchased War Savings Certificates and stamps to help the War effort.

In Edmonton, since 1951, she has been active in curling and has held a number of executive positions with the Ukrainian Catholic Women's League of St. Basil's Church.

Joseph M. Lazarenko got his appointment to Queen's Council in 1955, and is still practicing law in Edmonton. Helen and Joseph have two daughters, Ferne and Cynthia, both born at Myrnam, Alberta. Ferne has her Master of Science degree in Nutrition. She is married to Calvin Putnam and is one of the Nutritionists employed by the City of Edmonton.

Cynthia is a Bachelor of Arts graduate of the U. of A., is married to Winston Gereluk who has a Master of Education degree. They have three sons: Darren, Marlow and Perry and live in Edmonton.

Third child, Anne

by Anne Goshko

Anne married Myroslaw Demetrious Russel Goshko. This name, Myroslaw, was a hard name to remember and pronounce so he was given a nickname, Russel. Russel was born November 8, 1910, in Borshchiw district.

Russel took his early education in the Myroslaw School, south-west of Inland, and Leachville School. Although the schools were over three and one-half miles from home, he had to walk regardless of the weather. During the earlier days, the children went barefooted from spring to fall. One day it had snowed while he was barefooted in school and he had to wait at a neighbor's for his dad to come and drive him home. Russel finished high school in Vegreville in 1929. The fall of 1929 he entered the University of Alberta in Edmonton to take up medicine. His dad died in 1930 so he had to drop out of school to take care of his mother and put his two sisters through school and farm the land. In 1938 he married Anne Triska, the second daughter of William and Pauline Triska. Russel and Anne settled on his father's (Tymko Goshko) homestead. They are farming 800 acres of land to this day.

Anne was born July 25, 1914, at Slawa, Alberta, where her parents farmed for nine years. The land at Slawa was very sandy and had lots of rocks so the parents moved to the Park Grove district in the spring



Russell and Anne (Triska) Goshko, 1961. Children (l. to r.) — Christine (Peter Pawluk), Patricia (Ron Tucker), and Edward (deceased 1966).



Windmill on Russell and Anne Goshko's farm, 1938.



Four generations, 1963. Mrs. Russell Goshko (Annie Triska), Mrs. Tymko Goshko (Russell's mother), Mrs. William Triska (Anne's mother), Mrs. Christine (Goshko) Pawluk, and baby Cathryn.

of 1916. Anne went to Park Grove School to grade 8, then she had to continue her education in the Vegreville High School, the same school that Russel went to a few years earlier. Anne trained under Miss O'Brian and graduated as a Registered Nurse from the Vegreville General Hospital. She also won first prize for writing the case history of a patient. Jobs were scarce for nurses in 1936. Anne applied at many places, finally got a job at the Radway Hospital in 1937. She worked for \$25.00 a month with board and room. In 1938 Anne worked in Dr. Kickham's office in Westlock as a special nurse. She worked at the health unit No 25, the Auxiliary Hospital, and part-time at the Nursing Home. Later she retired from nursing.

Russel was Secretary-Treasurer of the Inland School No 4428 for many years until it closed in 1955. Then a community centre was formed.

In 1965 Russel was elected as a Wheat Pool delegate from District 603 and held this position until 1978.

Russel was very active in community affairs. He was the president of the Home and School Association and was also the President of the Boy Scout Association. He conducted the Vegreville Ukrainian Orthodox Church choir and taught Ukrainian dancing. He took over as Registrar of Vital Statistics from his dad. To this day he still takes an active part in the community, attending many conventions and seminars. One thing to remember, Russel had a devoted wife who managed the house and looked after the chores while he was away looking after the public's interests.



The "Inland Merry Workers" 4-H Sewing Club, formed in 1953 with leader Ann Goshko. (Left side) Christine Goshko, Eleanor Storoschuk, Marlene Albrecht, Pearl Kowalchuk. (Right side) Deloris Derdak, Dawna Albrecht, Gladys Zuk and Mrs. Anne Goshko.

Russel and Anne had three children: Christine, Patricia and Edward. They went to school at Inland until it was closed, then went by bus to Holden. When the boundaries were changed, the children were bused to Vegreville. Since the roads had no gravel, the school bus driver refused to travel over them when they were muddy, causing the children to miss too much school. The municipality refused to do anything about the roads so Russel and Anne decided to build a house in Vegreville, thereby allowing their children a better chance to get a good education.

Christine was in grade VII when she joined the "Inland Merry Workers" 4-H sewing club, and later joined the 4-H Beef club. She enjoyed looking after animals.



The four Goshko brothers — Demetrius (Dave), Zachary (Jack), Myroslaw (Russell), and Michael. Dave, Jack and Michael attended the School for Foreigners in Vegreville in the early 1900's. 1964.



Wedding of Annie Triska and Russell Goshko, July 23, 1938. The groom is locked outside the gate and is warned by Bill Ruryk that he cannot come in unless he pays his dues. (L. to r.) — Mike Triska, Bill Triska Jr., Nick Ruryk, Bill Ruryk, Marjorie Ruryk, Elsie Triska. Musicians (on gate) — Bill Savich, Tony Bespalko, Hank Shelest, and Sandy Savich.

After finishing High School in Vegreville, Christine entered the General Hospital School of Nursing in Edmonton where she graduated in 1962. She worked in St. Joseph's General Hospital at Vegreville.

She married Peter Pawluk of Mundare in the fall of 1962 and continued nursing part-time in the General Hospital in Mundare. She played the piano beautifully. She was a pupil of Mrs. B. Clements, far advanced in music. She sang in the Church choir.

They have four children: Cathryn, Karen, Gordon and Billy.

Patricia finished her education in Vegreville High School. She also studied music and took piano and accordian and sang in the church choir. She also coached a school basketball team.

Later she entered Alberta College and took up Business Administration. She worked for the Vegreville Agriculturalist and at the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration offices.

In 1963 Patricia married Constable Ron Tucker of the R.C.M.P. and they moved to Smoky Lake where Ron was stationed. Later they moved to Regina, Calgary, and Vancouver.

They have two children, Bobby and Brian.

Edward Goshko was our adopted son. He was educated in Vegreville Composite High School. Edward was involved in many activities. He played on the school football team as well as being in the Vegreville school band. He loved to beat the drums. He joined the Boy Scouts in 1956, liked to teach Sunday school and sang in the church choir. He passed away in 1966.

Fourth child, Peter, died when young.

Fifth child, Lena

Lena, the fifth child of Pauline and William Triska, was born in Vegreville. She attended Park Grove



Lena (Triska) and Alex Sawchuk and children John and Rose Marie, 1967.

School and later high school in Vegreville where she stayed at a Girls Residence.

After she completed her high school, she wanted to go to Normal School to become a teacher, but could not afford it so, instead, took a hairdressing course at the Marvel School of Hairdressing in Edmonton.

When she returned to Vegreville, she set up a Beauty Parlour in conjunction with Sam Sysak's Barber Shop. She worked there for a few years while living at the home of Mr. and Mrs. R. Ludwick.

In October, 1938, Lena married Alex Sawchuk, an industrious young man who farmed near Mundare. She continued to give perms to some of her old customers and friends whenever time and farm work permitted.

Lena and Alex have two children — Rosemarie, who is a Registered Nurse from Misericordia Hospital in Edmonton. She is married to Steven Sumka, and lives in Edmonton with their four children — Iris, Christopher, Daniel and Elana.

John completed his schooling in Mundare and is a meat inspector in Edmonton. He married Bonnie Kozlowski and they have one daughter, Ronda.

Sixth child, Mike

Mike was the sixth child born to Pauline and William Triska. After attending Park Grove School



Mike Triska and family, 1975. (l. to r.) — Milton Triska, his wife Fiona (nee Love) and children Heidi and Cameron, Wayde Triska, Kathryn Triska (nee Kaluzny), and Mike Triska.

he went to Brookside High School in Warwick, and to Vegreville High School.

After leaving home in 1936, Mike joined Bill and Nick Ruryk at working in the sugar-beet factory in Picture Butte, Alberta. During the slack winter months Mike and Bill would come home. There would be lots of music, singing and fun. Mike played the banjo and Bill played the Jew's harp.

In 1942 Mike worked in the nickel mines of Sudbury, Ontario. When he returned home to attend his father's funeral, he almost met his own death when the family bull gored him.

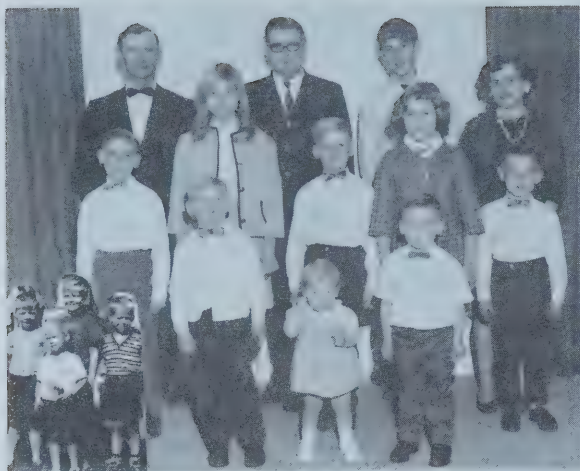
Mike married Kathryn Kaluzny in 1944, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Mike Kaluzny of McMunn, Manitoba. They lived in Ontario for several years.

Mike obtained his Tool and Die Certificate in Hamilton and worked for the International Harvester Company.

In 1953, there was a dire need for Tool and Die Makers in the Ford Motor Aircraft plant in Chicago, so Mike and Kay and their two sons, Milton and Wayde moved to Chicago. Several years later he accepted a job with the Caterpillar Tractor Company where he is still a Supervisor today.

Besides being housewife and mother, Kay pursued an interest of her own and obtained her licence as a practical Nurse from the State of Illinois, Chicago, and is still nursing.

Mike built a beautiful brick and stucco home in Oswego, Illinois — near Chicago where they raised their sons. Milton — after graduating from Illinois State College in 1967, joined the U. S. A. Airforce. Following this he moved to Toronto, Ontario, where he works for the Canadian Pacific Airlines. He is married and has two children, Heidi and Cameron. Wayde — graduated from Illinois State College in 1974 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in accounting. His wife Darlene (Atterbury) has a Masters Degree in Science. They have a daughter Rebecca and live in Emhurst, Illinois.



William and Greta Triska family. Back row (l. to r.) — William, Jim, Edward, Greta. Middle row (l. to r.) — Joseph, Mary Anne, Louis, Carolyn, Arthur. Front row (l. to r.) — Timothy, Susan, Steven, Easter, 1969. Inserted — John, Christopher, Robert, Richard, 1977.

Seventh child, George, died when young.

Eighth child, William

Born in Vegreville, Bill took his early schooling at Park Grove school, then attended Brookside High School at Warwick, Alberta. Bill helped his father work the family farm until 1943 when he decided to branch out on his own and headed East. He worked in Montreal, Toronto and in the tobacco country of Langton, Ontario, where he married Greta Ball and settled on an acreage at Fairgrounds, near Tillsonberg, Ontario.

In 1957 Bill became a certified electrician and set up his own business "Triska Electric".

Bill and Greta were blessed with a happy, healthy family:

Jim, an electrician and plumber, married Carol Butcher. They have two children, Gregory and Evelyn.

Edward graduated from the University of Waterloo with a Bachelor of Arts degree which included a year of studies in Spain. He speaks Spanish fluently. Presently he is in the airforce and is stationed at Camp Borden, Ontario.

Mary Anne was an office receptionist prior to her marriage to Alvin Knight. They live in Glen Meyer with their two children, Kevin and Daryl.

Carolyn, a graduate from hairdressing school in Hamilton, works at Langton.

Joseph took up car-body mechanics after completing his high school.

Susan, Christopher, Robert, John and Richard are attending public school.

Louis completed high school as well and is employed in the tobacco industry.

Arthur, Timothy and Steven are presently in high school.

Besides running a very busy household, Greta has won many prizes at the local fairs for various entries in baking, knitting, crocheting, cake-decorating, etc.

Ninth child, Mary

Mary completed grade nine at Park Grove and since leaving home she has been working as a cook in large institutions. Presently she is the head cook in a boys' home in Hamilton.

She married Michael Kaluzny who is supervisor in a Tool and Die Company. They live in Hamilton, Ontario, and have four children.

Daniel graduated from the McMaster University with honors and obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Biochemistry.

Marcella received her Laboratory Technicians Certification from Toronto and is presently employed in a Medical Clinic in Hamilton. She also coaches several young people's basketball teams.

Christine is attending the University of Waterloo working towards a Social Workers degree. She is a cheerleader for the Hamilton Tiger Cats football team.

Paul completed his grade twelve and is taking a mechanics course at Mohawk College, Hamilton.



Kaluzny family. Sitting (l. to r.) — Paul and Mary (Triska) Kaluzny. Back row (l. to r.) — Christine, Daniel, Michael and Marcella, 1977.



Louis and Mary Triska and family. Back row (l. to r.) — Carol, Elaine, Irene, Marlene. Middle row — Louis and Mary Triska. Front row — Tony and Michael, 1968.

Tenth child, Louis

Throughout his earlier years, Louis was engaged in farming, orchard-growing and roughnecking in the oil industry. For the past number of years he has resided in Edmonton and has been employed as a machinist.

In 1966 Louis married Mary Chapor, daughter of the late George and Barbara Tkachuk of Waskatenau, who had six children from a previous marriage. Elaine is a high school teacher, Carol an accountant, and Irene a stenographer. Marlene, Tony and Michael are still at home.

Eleventh child, Joe

Joe is the son of Wasyl and Pauline Triska formerly of the Park Grove District.

Joe and Theresa were both born in Vegreville. Theresa is the daughter of Joe and Nancy Souchuk of Vegreville. They both completed high school in Mundare. Joe continued his education in accounting and economics through Shaw Schools Ltd. and Red River College. They have been married for 29 years and have three children.

Lorne Brian who teaches in Altona, Manitoba married Geraldine Larocque. They have three children: Tafline, Daniel, and David.



25th Wedding Anniversary of Joe and Theresa Triska. (l. to r.) — Mrs. Pauline Triska, Joe Triska, Theresa (Souchuk), Nancy and Joe Souchuk (Theresa's parents), Winnipeg, 1975.



Joe and Theresa Triska and family. Front (l. to r.) — Theresa, Sherrille and Joe Triska. Back row (l. to r.) — Robert and Lorne, 1974.

Robert Joseph of Halifax serves with the Canadian Forces as a Lieutenant.

Sherrille Lynn lives at home and is a student of music.

Joe is presently employed at NEDCO's Electrical Wholesale in Winnipeg as Clerical Services Manager for Western Canadian Region.

Twelfth child, Elsie

The youngest daughter of Pauline and Wasyl Triska, Elsie, received her early schooling at Park Grove School, her high school at Mundare, and her nurse's training at the Edmonton General Hospital. Since graduation Elsie has had a most interesting career working in the specialty areas of nursing. For example, she was a District Nurse at Worsley (in the Peace River country), a Nurse Counsellor at Henwood, and an Occupational Health Nurse in industry.

Elsie is married to Fredrick Johannes Verwijk



Fred and Elsie (Triska) Verwijk and daughters Alison and Moira at family reunion, 1977.

who came to Canada from the Hague, Holland, and obtained his Bachelor of Arts degree and Teachers Certificate from the University of Alberta. They have two children: Alison, who obtained his Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Alberta, is presently attending the University of Toronto where she is studying towards a Masters Degree in Library Science. Moira lives at home and attends East Glen High School.

Thirteenth child, Edward

Edward was born in Vegreville, youngest son of Pauline and Wasył Triska. He received his elementary education in the Vegreville District and High School in Mundare. He attended University of Alberta for two years, then completed his B. A. from St. Michaels College University of Toronto and obtained



Edward and Rose Triska and their children Myron, Wanda, Michael and Mark, 1975.

his teaching certificate from Ontario College of Education.

Edward married Rose Lopushanski of Cherhill, Alberta. Married for twenty years, they have four children and reside at Troy, Ontario.

Myron is studying Business Administration at Queens University, Kingston, Ontario, and Michael, Wanda and Mark are at home.

Edward is presently employed as a Commercial teacher at Pauline Johnson Collegiate, Brantford, Ontario.

Tropak, John and Anora

submitted by Lil Wispinski

John Tropak was born on February 23, 1894 in Austria. He was the son of John and Eva Zarichny. Eva's maiden name was Wasiuta. As a young child, John came to Canada with his parents and settled in the Kopernick, Alberta, area. This is located south of Holden, Alberta. John's maternal grandparents were Nykolay and Maria (Lysychka) Wasiuta.

The name "Tropak" was adopted in the 1800's, in the time of John and Eva. The change took place while the family was still in the old country. Prior to this time, the surname of the family was "Zarichny". The new name was "pinned on" John at a christening, and the name has been carried on through the generations ever since. The word "Hopak" means dancer in Ukrainian and as John Sr. was a very good dancer the new name seemed suitable.



John Tropak family, about 1935. Back row: Marie, Paul. Centre: Orest, John (father), Anna (mother), Olga. Right front: Alice.

As a young man, John Jr. worked on a farm in Saskatchewan and also spent some years working on the railroad. On one occasion he had the misfortune of breaking both of his wrists when he jumped off a train.

John received his education through practical experience and whatever his parents taught him. There were no schools available near where they lived.

Close to Mundare, Alberta, lived a young girl by the name of Anora Zaseybida. She was born in Austria on October 12, 1893, to Jvarhim (James) and Mary (Zarry) Zaseybida. As in the case of John, no education was available, so practical living and the parents were Anora's teachers. During her later teen years, Anora, or better known as Anna, met the young man named John Tropak. As time went by, he proposed and she became the bride of this fine young man. The wedding took place on June 11, 1916, at Mundare, Alberta.

John and Anna purchased a farm near Inland, Alberta (SW 31-T51-R15).

It was here that John built a small log home which accommodated his family for many years. Later they moved into a larger two-story home on the farm.

Work on the farm was hard and the days were long. Money was scarce. John and Anna, along with many of their neighbors, went through some very hard times.

Anna made her own butter, bread and cheese. The bread, 12-15 loaves a week, was baked in an outside clay oven, a common way of baking in those days.

The family attended and supported the Borschiw Catholic Church. Some of the early pioneers that helped build the church were the Zaseybida's, Kalynchuk's, Rurka's, Kolodchuk's, and Bilyk's.

One of the many traditions followed by the family was the blessing of the meal at Easter time. The food, usually including "pasenka" (Easter eggs), "Paska", (Easter bread), ham, cheese, sausage, etc, was taken to the Easter church service in a box or basket. After the service the congregation gathered outside the church where the parish priest would go from family to family blessing each basket of food.

The mail was picked up at the nearest post-office which was at Inland. The postmaster, at this time, was Mr. Smart. As Inland was the nearest community with public services, most families supported the business there. The store, operated by Mr. James Toroschuk, supplied the basic essentials. The grain elevator was operated by Ed Albrecht, and later, Mr. Schmidt. The nearest Doctor was in Vegreville. Dr. Reid was often called on for the district medical problems.

John and Anna used common remedies when it came to curing mild illnesses. The familiar mustard plaster always served as a trustworthy way of helping a chest cold. Another good cold remedy was drinking boiled milk which had butter and garlic in it.

Only two of the Tropak children were born in the hospital at Vegreville. The others were born at home, with the well-known mid-wife Mrs. J. Kowalchuk, in attendance.

John's first car purchase was made at Barkley Motors in Vegreville. Here he bought a 1929 Big Chief Pontiac for the sum of \$2900.00. His first tractor was a Cockshutt 70 which he purchased for the amount of \$900.00.

The convenience of electricity arrived on the farm in 1944. This was a grand event and really eased the work for the farmers and housewives.

John and Anna had a family of eight children, three of whom passed away in early childhood. The five remaining children were Paul, Marie, Alice, Olga and Orest. The children attended the Leachville school and were confirmed and baptized in the Borschiw Catholic Church. Picnics were attended at Moscow, Borschiw and Inland. The children often took part in sports activities such as baseball games.

In later years, Paul married Joan Paranich and they live on a farm in the Vegreville district. Alice married Louis Macahonic, and they reside in Vegreville where Louis is a barber. Marie lives in Edmonton with her husband, Eric Albrecht, and their three children. Olga married Mike Wispinski, and they also live in Edmonton. Mike was raised in the Vegreville district, at Haight, Alberta. Orest, the youngest child, married Elizabeth Bednarsky. He farmed in the Vegreville district until his death on July 2, 1973. He predeceased his father by three weeks.

Anna passed away on February 28, 1966, at the age of sixty-three. John continued to live in their home in Vegreville. The latter years of his life were spent in a home for the aged in Vegreville. John passed away on July 22, 1973, at the age of seventy-nine years.

Trump, Glen

by Glen Trump (as submitted)

I was born in Michigan, U.S.A. Dec. 25, 1896. My father "Daniel Trump" left Michigan in the Spring of 1900, and emigrated to Edmonton, Alta. Canada via C.P.R.

In the Spring of 1901 we moved to a homestead twelve miles "South-East" from Fort Saskatchewan, we lived there three years, then we received a clear title to the land. While living on the homestead I started to school, we walked "one mile and a half",

on the way home from school we crossed a ditch on a plank, I was barefoot and one day as I crossed the stream I stepped on a big lizard, Boy! was I scared, at night the Coyotes howled and the dog barked. Our closest neighbor was one quarter mile North. Our home was a one room log house with a "sod floor" and a "sod roof", so every time it rained we had a "muddy floor", so "Pa and Uncle Henry" cut down some big "Poplar trees", they cut the bark around every ten feet, then they split the bark on opposite sides, peeled off the halves and put them on the roof like shakes, then we were dry.

In the Fall of 1904 we moved to Fort Saskatchewan (known as the Fort) where "Pa" worked as blacksmith for the "Royal North West Mounted Police", later he bought a blacksmith shop and had his own business.

We built a home and lived there several years. In the Summer of 1905 the "Canadian Northern Railway" was built through the Fort, which was a wonderful event, it was a "Public Holiday".

In the Spring of 1906 "Queen Victoria" visited the Fort on "Her Special Train", she shook hands with a lot of people, I got close enough to touch her hand, she was a lovely person.

Summer of 1907 "Pa" sold his shop and home, and we moved to the "new town of Vegreville" where "Pa" built a "home and bought a Blacksmith Shop", and we settled down once more.

"Pa" became a member of the "Vegreville Town Council" so he persuaded the town to buy a "Fire Engine" which they did, and they named it "Old Dan".

My sister Vera and I started to school in an old "Chicken Coop" until the "New Brick School" was finished, our teacher's name was Miss Wright, she was a "Lovely Person".

I graduated from the "Tenth grade" and went to work in "Louie Dubos" garage. His shop boss "D. E. Lacaille" was a wonderful mechanic and teacher, I was learning to be an expert mechanic. One day after I had been working with him about two months he said to me, Glen come with me, (I hadn't yet learned to drive a car.) We drove to his home about four blocks, and there was his "Model T Ford" sitting in his yard, he let me out of the car we were in, and said "Glen! you bring my car to the shop", and with that he started to leave. I said "But Lacaille I don't know how to drive", he said "Oh yes you do", and with that he left me there, so I cranked "his



Pageant "For Canada". "Old miner" with his hat off is Glen Trump. About 1908.

Ford", it started and I got in. I stalled the motor three times before I got going, but in due time I arrived at the shop, that was in the Summer of 1912 and I'm still driving in 1979. Later that Summer "Dubos Garage" burned to the ground, so then I got a job with "Sigler and Richardson" in their garage. "Sigler" was a "Fur Buyer", so when winter arrived he took me to drive his "Model T Ford", to "Cold Lake", where he bought furs from the "Fur Dealer" and from the Chipewyan Indians". We stayed that night in an "Indian's Home", so we slept on the floor wrapped up in our "Fur Robes", while we were waiting for bedtime to arrive we listened to several "Indian men" talking, and we watched several "Indian Squaws" sitting in a circle on the floor, "Talking", "Smoking their clay pipes" and making "Moose Hide Clothes", one of them was making a "Beautiful Beaded Moose Hide Coat". Two years later (winter of 1914 I bought this coat) "I still have it".

In 1914 I left "Sigler and Richardson", and went to work for "Roy Barkley" in his garage. I had many experiences driving and repairing cars.

Vegreville was growing, and then, "World War One" came along, I didn't want to kill anyone so I hesitated to enlist, one day a very prominent citizen took me to task for not enlisting, so shortly afterward I came to the States, summer of 1916.

I had to return to Vegreville in 1919 to take care of some of "my Father's business", while I was there I renewed my acquaintance with "Hazel Lank", her parents emigrated from Kansas to Alberta in 1900. Hazel and I became good friends while going to school in Vegreville, we corresponded during the years I was gone.

When it came time for me to go home to Ohio I wanted her to go with me, so we were married Dec. 18, 1919, in Hazel's older sister's home, "Leigh and Leota Freeman" at "Park Grove".

We have had a very "Happy Life", we have one son and one daughter, five grandsons and one great grandson.

I remember belonging to the "Vegreville Boy Scouts" in 1911, with Rev. R. A. Burge" as Scout Master.

We remember a lot of people in and around Vegreville, Warwick, and Brush Hill.

"Hazel and I" send our love to all of you "Dear Folks".

Tuck, Edna (Ryan)

by Edna Ryan Tuck

I, at the age of three, arrived in Lavoy, Alberta,

with my mother and little sister of a few months. A blizzard was in progress so we stayed at the "Palmer House", the local hotel. I have a vivid memory of my mother instructing me to lie close to my sister, to help keep her warm. Dad had sent in the hired man to bring us home as he had to drive the cattle around in a circle through the night to keep them warm as they had no shelter.

Another very early memory was going up on a high hill, known as Sick Man Hill, in a buggy, with my parents. I was told to stay in the rig, so was very interested to see just what the adults were doing. They stood around a long plain wooden box which they lowered into the ground. I asked what was in the box. They said a woman who had been very ill. I now realize that there was no church service.

It may be odd, but another funeral later on, very much stands out in my mind. My classmate, Walton Robinson, about eight years old, was taken to a hospital in Vegreville. My mother, one afternoon, received a phone call, asking that his parents come as soon as possible. I ran as fast as I could the one-half mile to their home. They had to catch a team of horses on the prairie near them to go the eighteen miles to the hospital. The Lavoy lumber yard made Walton a pine coffin. A lady in town lined the box with her wedding dress. I can still see the bouquet of Sweet Peas that a neighbor laid on top of the coffin. That was the first time I knew flowers were taken to a funeral. How beautiful that was to me!

After the trails were closed by farmers settling on the surveyed land, we travelled the road allowances which, of course, went through sloughs. The trails



(l. to r.) — Graham Tuck, Edna Tuck (Ryan), Dene Tuck, Samuel and Jeanie Ryan — parents of Edna Tuck, 1954.

had gone around them. We crossed the sloughs on bumpy corduroy, formed of long slim poles laid across the road. In the spring the water, in some of these sloughs, was nearly up to the buggy wheels' hubs, as we drove through. This always alarmed me as I had to sit in the bottom of the buggy with the dashboard to my back.

One day as I came around the end of the wagon, I dodged a double-bitted axe being swung out of the wagon box for sharpening (the men were cutting brush). The man lifted my hat, looked at my head and told me to run to the house. I didn't feel anything but did as I was told. By the time I got there I knew I was cut on top of the head. Mother bent me over a pail. I can still see the steady stream of blood pouring into the bucket. They applied a pressure bandage thus binding my head up; the blood stopped flowing. Mother could never see why they needed to sharpen axes so much that they could cut through a little girl's straw hat, the cloth lining, and her hair — like a razor. The cut was never sewn together, so it gaped, forming a cross on the top of my head when my hair is parted in the center.

Being a real little tomboy, I had my share of accidents, receiving three more scars and the misfortune of having them all on my head and face. Medical

attention would have prevented these scars, but that was never thought of.

Christmas was exciting. As there were no spruce or pine trees, we decorated a bare-branch poplar tree, with popcorn ropes. If we had any brown paper cups that chocolates came in, they were strung too. Mother had some tinsel and red ropes, but no candles were used. Our stockings, of long, black, heavy, rib-knit wool, were hung at the foot of our beds. Our early beds had straw mattresses. I realize now our gifts were from Eaton's catalogue. The most looked-for gift was from Auntie, because it always came wrapped in red tissue paper. This tissue paper we children hoarded, just to pull out at times to admire — it was so beautiful.

As a little girl it was great sport to run along the wind-swept ridges of hard cold snow that made a squeaking sound as we ran. The sport was to be the one that went the farthest without breaking through the crust. At certain times of the winter, you could go a long way.

On nice spring days, taking young calves in the barn out on a rope for a run, was a delight to me. To see them buck, kick their heels, and run in sheer exuberance was fun. They were soon too strong, so it generally ended with Dad having to catch and return them to the barn. I knew then I had to wait until next spring to take calves out again.

Bliss was to be on my back, on Crocus Hill in our pasture, on a summer day, gazing at the side arch of sky and trying to pick out shapes that I imagined I could see in the clouds.

Perhaps these simple impressions of childhood will bring back memories to those who lived on the prairie in the pioneer days, to others an impression of those times.

Tuck, Floyd and Family by Marjorie (Scott) Tuck

As a young girl, I, Marjorie Scott, worked in the R.M.B. hospital in Vegreville for two years as a maid doing all kinds of work, even cooking one day a week for all the patients, Doctor Reid and nursing staff and help. That was usually from six in the morning and maybe until nine or ten at night.

That is where I met Floyd Tuck, now my husband. He came in with a good case of measles and I got too close to his bed and I got them. I had to quit work for a while and then started working at other jobs, such as housework. Then in time Floyd and I started going together and were married at home on the old Vegreville farm, February 27, 1940.

That was the first time my dad allowed beer in the house, I believe; he sent one of my brothers to town



Agnes Baird (1871-1962), aunt to Edna Ryan Tuck.



Tuck family, 1938. Back row (l. to r.) — sons — Floyd, Horace, John, Boyd, Lloyd. Front row (l. to r.) — Ethel, Joseph Thomas (father), Rosanna (mother), and Mae.



Joseph Thomas Tuck and wife Rosanna, about 1938. (Time of their 50th wedding anniversary).

for some. We had a short honeymoon in Edmonton. While we were there, Floyd's brother Boyd phoned and wanted us home to start curling in a bonspiel. So we went to a shopping centre and I picked out my first curling suit.

We lived in a log house with Floyd's parents for a year; then they moved to Vegreville and we took over the farm house at SE 34-50-13 and farmed with Floyd's twin brother, Boyd, and his wife, Edna, until 1941. Boyd went East during the war years and worked at different jobs for a year; then his wife moved East, too.

Floyd and I took over the farm at that time. On December 16th, our daughter, Irene, was born. We still lived in the log house and I kept the school teachers and had a hired man, sometimes two. We still had the old threshing machine, so I had the cooking to do for the threshing crew in the fall. To keep the groceries on the table we milked up to eleven cows; I kept turkeys and chickens and did the housework.

We had one of the first combines in our district in 1943, a pull-type. That sure cut down on the cooking for men in the fall. But that only gave me one more job to do which was hauling grain from the combine with horses and a wagon box. Irene and I spent many an hour waiting for a load of grain; the combine was slow (maybe fifty bushels per hour). Then we finally got a truck but I still shovelled the grain into the granaries.

When Irene was about two, Floyd took sick and Dr. Reid came out and told us it was smallpox as he had spots on his feet and body, also a high temperature. He told me to keep him quiet and to keep Irene away from him. In those days if a child got smallpox it would go hard on them. Soon Floyd improved and thanks to a man we had working for us, Oliver Bell, the work was done outside and inside too. Irene didn't catch smallpox nor did anyone else. I often wonder what Floyd did have.

On December 3, 1944, our son, Lawrence Wayne, was born in the Vegreville hospital.



Tuck Garage, Lavoy, about 1932.

We were having quite a time in that year. First, the teachers went on strike in our district — the first strike we had anything to do with. Then, we still lived in the log house and our son was always getting colds or chest conditions, so when we had a letter from Boyd Tuck saying he was going to stay in the East, we decided to move over to their house just across the yard. It was new but never finished, just three rooms and the kitchen; so small, but it did have a full basement.

We moved in 1945 at Christmas time. We were crowded but warm. Next fall, at threshing time, we ate in the living room and the hired man slept in the old house.

In those days we even had hired help from the East and one time we had a Frenchman who could not talk English.

On April 28, 1949, our youngest son, Gordon, was born, a healthy baby and good. The day I was released from the hospital, my sister, Lillian, arrived from the States to live with my mother in Vegreville, as mother was very nervous living alone. So Floyd and my mother went to Edmonton to meet the plane and Dr. Yanda took Gordon and me home.

Our daughter, Irene, was married September 9, 1961, to William Korolyk, who at that time worked for the Safeway Co. in Edmonton. They have two



Floyd Tuck family. Wayne, Irene, Floyd (father), Gordon, Marjorie (mother) seated. 1970.



Joe Tuck, chopping at Lavoy farm, 1917.



Mr. and Mrs. Joe Tuck. 1917 Ford Touring car at Lavoy farm, 1918.

boys, Darin and Randy, both in school and doing well. At present they live in Fort McMurray and work for the Safeway stores there.

Wayne, our oldest son, was married in 1970 to Geri Litun and is farming with his dad and young brother, Gordon. They have two lively children, Melanie and Daryl, both in school.

Gordon, who lives in a house trailer not far away, was married in 1974 to Brenda Daily. They have one little two-year-old girl, Corinne.

Floyd is still in the best of health and helps with all the work on the farm but is able to go on holidays whenever he takes the notion. He is active in Masons, Star, is a director on the Co-op Store Board, is on the Church board, also in Unifarm and still belongs to the Alberta Wheat Pool and is president of the Historical Society in Vegreville.

I am in good health and take part in W.I., am a director on the Vegreville Fair Board, active in Order of the Eastern Star, President of the U.C.W. in Ranfurly Church, also on the Lavoy Catering committee. I still love to make quilts and farm.

We hope soon to move to a small town and our sons will take over the farm where their father and their grandfather farmed before them.

Tuck, John and Jessie by Mildred Gillyean

John Henry Tuck was born at Pawassan, Ont. on July 18, 1891, the eldest son of Joseph Thomas Tuck and Rose Anna McAmmond. He moved West with his family, reaching Strathcona on April 6, 1899. He worked as a printer on various newspapers in Strathcona, Stettler, Lacombe, Edmonton and Calgary.

Jessie Alice Brawner was born at Fairbury, Nebraska on March 10, 1892, the daughter of William Edward Brawner and Mary Emma McVay. The family moved to Alberta in 1900 and settled at Blackfalds. She worked as a seamstress until her marriage January 4, 1913.

After marriage they lived in Calgary where the first child Jessie Jean Marjorie was born. In March, 1914, the family moved to Clearwater to farm in partnership with John's father and brother Horace. The group moved to Lavoy in March, 1916, where the partnership continued. John left the farm in November, 1925, to start a light-generating and distributing plant in the village of Lavoy. The family moved into town on October 31, 1926. The business was sold to Canadian Utilities in 1929. Thereafter he ran a service station, sold machinery and repaired cars, first near the centre of town and in 1931 he moved his business to the west side of Highway 16 and continued the same work there. He went to Ontario in 1941 and worked in various factories as a tool maker until April, 1944. He went into partnership with his son Hollis from December, 1947, until 1951 and then with his son-in-law Fred Albers until 1955. He then continued on his own until he retired and sold out.

John had a retentive and inventive mind as well as mechanical skill. While at the farm at Lavoy he constructed the first radio in the district. He built the gasoline-powered generator for his electric Arc Welder and several lathes.

Jessie was forever having to place another plate at the table for farmer friends, salesmen or just for company besides the number of hand-outs to the men riding the rails in the depression years. Jessie remained in her home until her final commitment to the hospital with terminal cancer. The day of her funeral the citizens of Lavoy closed all places of business to pay homage to her.

John spent his last two years in the senior citizens home in Vegreville.

John and Jessie had seven children. Jessie Jean Marjorie, born January 1914, married Allan Weeks; four children, Fred, Carol, Donald, and Lorne. They live at McLaughlin, Alta.

Mildred Alice Ethel, born August 1916, married Ormond (Ormy) Trimble, lived at Vegreville; seven children, Myrna, Orvil, Gail, Hazel, Wade, Stella and Marvin. Ormy died February 1964; Mildred married John Gillyean, Lloydminster, 1972.

Velma Laura Helen, born September 16, 1918, married Don White; one son, Donald Alden. Don died March 1964, Velma "Bunny" died January 5, 1973.

Eva Virginia May, born Sept. 3, 1920, married Fred Albers; two children, Bob and Marilynn. Eva and Fred were divorced and Eva married Jake Leoppky. They live in Victoria, B.C.

Norman Gordon Maxwell was born April 13, 1922; married Ruth Cardiff. They live in Burlington,



John Tuck family. Back row (l. to r.) — Glenn, Mildred, Maxwell, Eva, Hollis. Front row (l. to r.) — Bunny, mother Jessie, father John, Jean. About 1970.



John Tuck family, 1929. Back row (l. to r.) — Velma, Mildred, Jean, mother Jessie, father John holding Glenn. Front row — (l. to r.) — Hollis, Maxwell, Eva.

Ontario; their children are, Joan, Fay, Darrel, Qwenda.

Hollis Owen Nelson, born Sept. 9, 1924, married Margaret Patterson; four girls, Elaine, Lynn, Maureen and Sherrill. They live in Saskatoon.

Walter Glenn Wesley, born Nov. 1928, married Helen Laschuk; three children, Leona, John and Marlene. They live in Regina.

Jean, myself and Bunny attended Aplomb School. We walked across the fields and a coulee. We thought that was a big coulee so you can see that we were quite small. Grandma Tuck lived along our way and I imagine she had visitors quite often. We moved into Lavoy in October, 1925. I remember our wagon and hayrack loaded with our possessions for the move to our new home just across the street from Brickers Store. We girls would take the little hand wagon over to the store to bring home a box of apples. This house was too small for such a big family. Glenn was born while we lived there, so dad bought the house that he owned until his death in 1971.

We children all enjoyed our school years in Lavoy. There were two rooms in our school. And grades I to XI were taught. During my brother's high school years grade XII was also taught. I remember helping to plant the caragana hedge that ran across the south fence.

Alex Wilson was the principal and a very energetic man. He had part of his pointer finger cut off and it was odd to have that pointing at you when he wanted your attention. Mr. Walsh followed him. He did a lot for football amongst boys and men around town.

We had a nice schoolyard and a basketball court. The north area was used for a baseball field, baseball tournaments and picnics.

We didn't always have a skating rink. The one I remember best was in the area beside the Community Hall. It was a skating rink in winter and a tennis court in summer. Tuck's garage was across the street and the office was used for a changing room. My dad put in benches and a pot-bellied heater in the office part. He did a little business sharpening skates for about 25c.

The tennis court was busy in summer. Margaret Nairn was the best player among us girls. Then her brother Jan and other bank boys made good use of the court. We had tournaments, and one year I remember being in a play-off with Mrs. Stewart (Vera) Arthur.

The Community Hall dances were the centre of some of our social life. There were many good dances. Those after a ball tournament were highlights. What dances with all those out of town fellows! Some of the musicians were Cyril Bigham,

Wally Kittle, Bob Kittle, Clarence Kittle, Joe Dubuc, Bert Dubuc and Fred Reesor.

The United Church was the centre of our religious and social life. Rev. Norman McLeod with his wife and two children, Miriam and Buddy, were instrumental in building the church. They also started a young people's group. (Interdenominational). We enjoyed group meetings and social events, sleigh rides, tobogganing and skiing on Sick Man Hill. The Rattray and Kittle boys provided team and sleigh for many of these.

Rev. Harry Peters followed Rev. McLeod. He was Welsh and loved his music. The church had a good choir and every year he directed a play with the young people. Nearly every play had a ducky, played by Muriel Kittle, until she finally said "No more!". She was the only one of us who could speak the dialect. We had to choose the next play without a ducky. We put on the Christmas story one year. Allan Johnson was Scrooge and it was a smashing success.

Rev. McDonald followed Rev. Peters. He was an older man and stuck mostly to his church duties. Ormy and I were married by him in the church in 1937.

I must mention the picnics that we used to have at McCutcheon's Lake. We young ones were loaded into a cattle truck, while the adults went in cars and took the food. There was swimming, games and races, treats and a picnic supper. We enjoyed them so much that I don't even remember the times that we were rained out.

Tuck, Thomas and Family by Lawrence Floyd Tuck

The Tuck story begins in England in 1798 when Thomas Tuck was born.

According to the story, his son James Tuck was shanghaied at sixteen years of age and taken on a ship to Canada as a stowaway. On arrival in Canada he jumped ship and disappeared from sight for about four years. Then he got word to his father (Thomas Tuck) as to his whereabouts. His father came to Canada about 1841. He brought with him twins, a boy and a girl. The boy was my grandfather, Jacob Tuck (I am also a twin of Boyd Tuck). Jacob Tuck was born in Wiltshire, England. He was married in Ontario to Harriet Andrus in 1853. They had a family of twelve. The eldest was a girl, then eleven boys in a row in twenty-six years, 1854 to 1880.

My father, Joseph Thomas Tuck, was the fifth child. They were very poor and father had very little education. His father sent him out to a farmer to work when he was nine years of age till he was eighteen. After this he was able to learn the carpenter trade and built houses, worked in mills and repaired buggies,

cutters and wagons for a few years. He married my mother in 1888, Rose Anna McAmmond, at North Bay, Ontario. He died in 1950 at 87 years of age at Vegreville. Mother was born July 1st, 1868, near Ottawa or Bytown, as it was called then. She was of Irish extraction but was born at Napeen where she started school at six years of age. Her father had come from around Belfast, Ireland. Her mother was Pennsylvania Dutch. Her name was Sara Umsted. Her father's brother was Mayor of Belfast, Ireland. She passed away at Vegreville in 1960 in her 92nd year.

From this marriage eight children were born. All but one of the family have lived to a mature age. Roy died of rheumatic fever at seven years of age in Edmonton.

The family is as follows:

Mary Ethel — 1889

John Henry — 1891-1971

Horace Stanley — 1893-1971

Joseph Roy — 1897-1904

Annie May — 1902

Albert Lloyd — 1904

Lawrence Floyd — 1907

Gordon Boyd — 1907

The family moved to Edmonton in 1899 and received most of their education in Alberta. None of the family was highly educated.

Father filed on a homestead at New Sarepta, south-east of Edmonton. He proved up on it and started to do a little farming and worked at carpenter work and odd jobs. They later moved to a rented farm near Beaumont, Alberta. I started school at Clearwater, a country school house, at seven years of age.

Dad farmed near Beaumont till 1916 and in 1915 he and my two older brothers came to Lavoy and bought a half-section of land and did a few acres of breaking on the south half of Section 34-50-13-4. In 1916 we moved on to this land where I am residing now. In 1917 my older brothers broke 55 acres and worked it with horses, ready for wheat in 1918. It was a splendid crop and was beginning to fill when on July 23, 1918, a heavy frost killed the wheat. Our dream of having some wheat to sell was gone for one more year. This meant very hard times ahead. After we were sure the crop was frozen beyond salvation, we mowed it all and stacked it in long stacks for feed. We only had a few cattle so had far more feed than we could use, as had nearly everyone else. It stood over in the stacks and 1919 was a very dry year and hay and feed was scarce so we were able to get a few dollars from the sale of the disaster crop of 1918. The winter of 1919-20 was an extremely long cold winter with more snow than I have seen any year since.

In 1918 we started to break land on the other

quarter with horses but it was slow going so my dad and two brothers bought a 10-20 Titan (International) tractor and we broke eighty acres. My two older brothers did some breaking for others to make a few dollars.

My twin brother and I cut brush with axes for a speculator across the road from our home for 50¢ a day, while a contractor broke the land. This was during summer holidays of 1918. I, two brothers and one sister had started school again in April, 1916, at Aplomb (our local school) which had been built in 1915. I continued going to this school till 1925 and took Grade ten. That was the limit of my education. We were fortunate to be able to take Grade ten at home, as many schools only taught to Grade eight. I helped my father and brothers farm till 1927 when my twin brother and I bought a quarter-section adjoining the home place. We got eighty acres brushed in the fall and winter of 1927, broke it in 1928 and had a crop of wheat in 1929. This was the beginning of farming for me.

By about 1920 there were quite a few people living in the area so dances were put on in the Aplomb and Rosegarland Schools, on alternate Friday nights, where we had our main entertainment. I like to dance so it was nearly a weekly affair for several winters. These dances were discontinued about April to November of each summer. It only cost about 50¢ to go to a dance, all took lunch and had a good time.

I began playing baseball in school and continued playing until I was around forty years of age, in Ranfurly and Lavoy. We had a league consisting of Vegreville — two teams, Brush Hill, Lavoy, Ranfurly, Innisfree, Minburn and Mannville. These games were played twice a week in the summer months till about 1930. We also had ball tournaments and sports days May 24th and July 1st. In those days we made our own entertainment.

About 1938 a curling rink was built in Lavoy. It was a community project financed by private donations of money and labor. It was a two-sheet rink and one of the best patronized places in the town. There were two draws a night, six nights a week for the first two winters.

We learned to curl and have curled nearly every year since. I enjoy curling and still take in about half a dozen bonspiels a winter, including the veterans' spiel in Edmonton for the past three years.

We have numerous prizes and trophies around the house that my wife and I have won in spiels. My wife and I and another couple made an eight-ender in the Vegreville Curling Rink in 1966.

We bought our first car in 1924, a McLaughlin Buick touring car with a top that folded. It also had side curtains to put on when the weather was cold or

wet. We also bought a second tractor in 1924, a Rumely 16-30 and I.H.C. threshing machine.

Farming in the twenties and thirties was a tedious and hard life. Nearly all work was done by hand. The grain was cut and tied with binders with four horses to pull them. In 1912-1930 most binders were a six-foot cut. They were far ahead of the previous reapers which cut the grain and left it in bunches to be tied by hand with a wisp of grain straw. The bundles had to be stooked and left two weeks to dry, then loaded onto wagons by hand to be threshed. Hay was nearly all pitched with forks onto wagons, then stacked by hand. It was hauled by hand in the winter to livestock.

I'm afraid if farm work was as hard to-day as then, there would be very few farmers. People could not do the large acreages of to-day with horse and hard labor as was done then.

We bought our third tractor, an 18-32 Case, in 1928 with which we did our plowing. The seeding and harrowing were done with horses for a few years yet. We used this Case tractor for twenty years, from 1928-1949. The cost of this tractor was between \$1,000 and \$1,100. A far cry from to-day's tractor cost of up to \$100,000, of course much larger and more efficient. Grain prices were very low and I recall selling wheat as low as 25¢ per bushel and oats as low as 9¢ a bushel. With the open market system we had in those days prices would stay around \$1.00 a bushel for wheat and perhaps 50¢ for oats till August. Then when people started to thresh, the price would plummet to give-away rates quoted above. Farmers had threshing expenses to pay and had to sell the grain in the fall regardless of price. Then after the grain was nearly all sold prices would rise the following May or June to fair levels till fall threshing started. Then the same old thing would happen again. Those were "the good old days" of open market and "grain exchange" of which young people of to-day should be aware.

Things continued at a rather dull pace till near the end of the thirties. Money was scarce but we seemed to get as much out of life as we do to-day with dollars for the cents we had at our disposal then.

In 1938 my brother and I purchased another quarter of land. There were only twenty-three acres broken on it, so we broke some in 1939 and finished breaking the quarter in 1943 and 1949.

I was married in February, 1940, to Marjorie Scott, of Vegreville (a farm girl). She has always been at my side when there is work to be done or decisions made.

We milked cows, eight or ten, and kept a flock of chickens and sold cream and eggs, also chickens and turkeys to keep food on the table. We kept a herd of

forty registered Shorthorn cattle. In 1940, my father and mother, who had been active on the farm, retired in Vegreville.

The 1941 crop was quite poor and help in wartime factories in Ontario was scarce, so my brother left after harvest to join my older brother who was already working there. This left my wife and me alone on a section of land.

The crop in 1942 was good, as was the 1943 crop. Prices were fair, so we made headway. In 1943 we purchased our first combine, a second-hand Massey Harris pull-type with power take-off drive. In 1945 we purchased a second-hand Massey Harris tractor 302 model which we used till 1952.

In December 1941 our daughter came along, followed by sons in 1944 and 1949. We were happy with a family of three and decided to keep it that way, which we did.

The 1940 decade continued with good crops and prices so we had a good family unit and farm.

About this time I became involved in community projects, such as Lavoy No. 2 Mutual Telephone Company of which I was a Board member for fifteen years, most of which time I was Chairman. I was also interested in the farm organizations, went to conventions and served as a board member for several years. I had a family so had to get involved in the school affairs as trustee in the local school (Aplomb). Then in 1952 Rural Electrification came along and I served as Chairman on the Aplomb unit, which was started in 1953. Then we joined the Lavoy R.E.A. and I served on the board for sixteen years, about half of those years as chairman of that board.

The family also required some church attachment, so we joined the Ranfurly United and I became involved as a steward on the Board of Session for many years. I am at present on the board of Stewards.

I lost my mother in 1959 at the good old age of 92.

In the early fifties I became interested in Masonry and joined the Vegreville Masonic Lodge. I progressed through the lodge and was Master in 1966.

My wife had been in Eastern Star for a number of years so in 1968 I joined the Joan of Arc Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star. I became worthy patron in a couple of years and have been in that position three times in all, besides some of the other offices.

Along about this time our two boys finished high school. They each took a course in Agriculture in Vermilion School of Agriculture and decided they wanted to farm.

Our family of one girl and two boys are all happily married and have families. We are the proud grandparents of five fine grandchildren, two girls and three boys.

Our daughter and husband and two boys live in Fort McMurray, Alberta.

The two sons live on the farm and we work together in partnership.

We purchased more land and rented some to make an economic unit for the three of us. So this, along with a cattle herd and a barn full of pigs, comprises our present set-up.

We have done a little travelling in the last ten years, such as a trip to Hawaii, Arizona and Inuvik.

Ten years ago I was elected to the board of the Vegreville Co-operative Association. I have served three terms and started the fourth. I have had a busy life, have had good health and have been a very fortunate man.

Farming is a good life and the farm has been good to me. If I had my life to live over again I would still be a farmer.

Farming has its ups and downs but what profession or occupation has not?

Tunis, Oscar and Bessie

Oscar and Bessie Tunis, children Lena and Joe, came to Lavoy in 1929 from Lamont, Alberta. Oscar Tunis rented a confectionary and grocery store which he operated until 1932. Then he purchased the store and building across the main street (the old Hughes store), where he operated a much larger grocery store.

At that same time Massey-Harris was looking for someone to take over their agency for farm implements and so it was that his grocery business was combined with running a farm implement outlet also.

Their youngest daughter, Polly, was born in 1939 while the family resided in Lavoy. The Tunis family was active in Lavoy community affairs. Oscar Tunis was on the Village Council and was one of the founders and builders of the first curling rink in Lavoy.

In August, 1939, the family moved to Vegreville where Oscar and Bessie resided until early 1972 when they moved to Vancouver.

In August, 1939, Oscar Tunis and Fred Muzyka formed a partnership and started Muzyka & Tunis Department Store, after purchasing the stock of the former Bon Ton store. The store was first located in the Prince Edward Hotel building, then in 1942 moved to their own building across the street from the Alberta Hotel. The partnership lasted until 1970 when both partners sold the business and retired.

During their residence in Vegreville both Oscar and Bessie Tunis were very active in community affairs. Oscar was a Charter member of the Vegreville Rotary Club as well as serving as secretary for eight years. Also he was secretary of the



Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Tunis and daughter Lee before departure to Israel, early 1960's.

Vegreville Jewish Community for fifteen years. He was a Life member of the Vegreville Elks Lodge and on the Provincial Board of the Boy Scouts Association of Alberta.

Bessie Tunis was a Charter member and Past President of the Rose Bricker Chapter of Hadassah, Past President of the Women's Institute, Life member of the Order of the Royal Purple and member of the Vegreville Hospital Auxiliary.

Lena (Lee) and Joe Tunis completed their schooling in Vegreville. Lee went on to Alberta College where she took a secretarial course; Joe continued at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver. Lee was a Charter member of the Ada I. Wright Chapter of I.O.D.E. Joe was in the Boy Scouts under Beaver Bennett's leadership.

Lee went to live in Vancouver in 1947 where she was employed by Black Motors Ltd., a former Vegreville company. She is now Mrs. Arthur Kramer and they reside in Vancouver. Joe went to Israel shortly after the State was formed, was married in 1951, has three children, all living in Israel, also one grandchild. Polly is now Mrs. Howard Baker, living in Seattle with her husband and one daughter.

In 1976 tragedy struck the family when Bessie Tunis passed away.

Oscar Tunis makes his home in Vancouver, has made several trips to Vegreville to renew acquaintances and he and the children still consider it "Our Home Town."

Tymchuk Family

by A. W. Tymchuk

The lure of the free lands (Vilni Zemli) for the fee of \$10.00 before the turn of the century and also the beginning of the 20th, brought to Canada a number of Ukrainian settlers. They were keen to come to the new land because of a lot of publicity by various steamship companies — “A beautiful country lies beyond the Atlantic ocean, flowing with milk and honey.” Dr. Josef Oleskow also came to Canada and stayed for quite a while looking at and studying the conditions here; then going back to the old country where he wrote a booklet about Canada. Also Ivan Pylypiw from the village of Nibeliw made the suggestion for the Ukrainians to emigrate to Canada, he being one of the first Ukrainian settlers coming in 1891 to Fort Saskatchewan district. While in the district he saw the fertile land. That same year in the fall he went back home to his native village and started the campaign for peasants to emigrate to Canada.

In the beginning of this century a great number of settlers came here for permanent living, to try to make this country the way it is now. The reason for so many people leaving their native land was that the peasants had very little land. The majority of the land was owned by big landlords; peasants had very small parcels of land compared to what the landlords and clergy had. If a peasant (compared to the Canadian way of describing the area) had about 14 acres of land, he would be considered well-to-do, but only a small percentage were that lucky in the old country. A great percentage of them had only half that amount or less and many had just about one acre or so. On the other hand, some had no land at all, only the home in the village. They had to work for the landlord all their lives for a miserable pay. These were the conditions that prompted many peasants to emigrate to Canada.

Among the emigrants that came to Canada in May, 1901, were the Tymchuk family, mother Tekla (grandma) and 4 sons: Marko and his wife Anna with a 6-month-old infant son; Paul and Peter; William died in Edmonton just on arrival and is buried in an



Lillian Tymchuk graduated from Vegreville High School, 1947.

unmarked grave; Marko and Anna, being my parents.

They left their native Western Ukraine, known or called Galicia, in the village of Shniriw in the Brody District, with many more emigrants coming by the way of the German seaport of Hamburg, but I can't recollect the name of the ship. They came by passing the English port of Liverpool where many ships used to stop to pick up passengers or freight. The ocean trip took 16 days. The trip was very dangerous due to the storms, as in those days the ships weren't built as they are now. The food wasn't the best; a lot of people were not only seasick but they were really sick due to the conditions of the voyage. Finally, after all the setbacks and inconvenience, they arrived at the Canadian seaport of Halifax. After going through immigration inspection and other necessary routines, they were ready for their westward trip.

The trip from Halifax to the western destination by CPR coach train to Edmonton by way of Calgary meant sitting on wooden seats, and buying their own food supplies time and again for the entire trip which took quite considerable time as the trains weren't as modern in those days as now. While travelling through the wilderness of Ontario, the immigrants had a very dim view of Canada. They were downhearted, wondering if the rest of the country would



Land clearing on A. W. Tymchuk farm, 1926.

be the same. It was May and they had seen a lot of snow. From Calgary they came to Strathcona; that was the end of the rail which is now South Edmonton.

After staying in the immigration house for the necessary time, they were taken by friends to their place for a while. These friends came to Canada a few years earlier from the same village. By that time they had horses and a wagon and were freighting from their place which was Edna, where the Ukrainian settlers first settled in the vicinity of Beaver Creek. Our family stayed there only for a short time as all the homesteads were already taken up, so they went further south and the family stayed for a while with the late Michael and Magda Korpans. They stayed there for a time while they could make some improvements before moving to their own place.

Dad filed on SE 2-52-16-W4 for himself and NW quarter in the same section for his mother; the last quarter was 160 acres of bald prairie and bush. Improvements had to be made not only for authorities, but for a place to live, by building a shelter and digging a well to have drinking water. Otherwise one had to use slough water which wasn't always available nor safe.

Hardships were encountered at every step. Most of the settlers brought with them all hand tools to start their work on the land and to do necessary building. Coming to the homestead to transport their belongings, they had to pay for freighting to the people who already had the horses and wagons. Or they had to work for the price of moving.

The other necessities that were needed in the early years such as a plow or wagon and horses, if money were available, had to be purchased in Edmonton. To the homestead there were no roads, only trails. Time and again they weren't passable and had to be bypassed so the load wouldn't be stuck in the mudhole, necessitating unloading. The early settlers depended on oxen for work as they were more reliable than horses and also easier to upkeep.

When some improvements were made on the homestead, land was cleared for the garden, and crops, especially wheat, were sown. For flour, wheat was ground by a stone quern, as no grist mills were close by. To have some money for most of the necessities, the homesteader had to seek work in Edmonton as it was booming with building. Or he had to work on the CP railroad south of Calgary or west towards Banff. Dad had to leave mom and grandma in the make-shift dwelling with a young child with only tea for food, not even any flour for a while. He went to Edmonton to work. As soon as he had made some money, he sent home a bag of 4X flour with the

neighbor who was freighting from Edmonton. Those were the early days, improving the homestead.

Many times the homesteaders had to walk to Edmonton regardless if it was summer, fall or winter. When dad had to look for work in Edmonton to earn some money for the most important necessities, he had to walk there by way of Fort Saskatchewan as there wasn't any ferry over the river at Edmonton. This was the way to Edmonton in summer time, so dad took his way on the ferry with his last 5¢. In winter they crossed the river over the ice

For buying other necessities and for using the post office, the settlers our way had to go to Vegreville (known as Old Vegreville) which was a progressive little community with a few stores, NWMP, implement dealer, blacksmith, and hotel. Dr. Rush and a few others had their offices there.

Vegreville was settled by a few French families before the turn of the century, coming from Kansas. The other post office and little store where many homesteaders had done their buying was by Beaverhill Lake, which was operated by Mr. McAllister.

As the years went by, the settlers were clearing more land and growing more crops. They built better homes and other buildings to shelter the livestock that they had at that time. The grain in the early years was threshed by flail during the winter months, and when more land was cleared and more grain was sown, the threshing outfits were coming to the district. The first such threshing outfit was owned by Mr. McAllister who farmed west of Beaverhill Lake. The threshing outfit was pulled either by oxen or horse as the boiler was stationary so it was pulled separately. The farmer had to pay for threshing at least \$10.00 if he didn't have that much grain, but if he had more grain he had to pay accordingly.

Not every homesteader was in a position to buy flour or get it from the store, as the only grist mill was in Edmonton. The flour was gristed at home on a stone grinder (called zorna in Ukrainian) but not every homesteader had one. The wheat had to be taken to the neighbor a few miles away, summer or winter. In the early years not many of these stone grinders were among the homesteaders, but as the years progressed many of these mills were obtained. They were made by Mr. Horlick who had his homestead in the Beaver Creek district; that is the territory where the earlier settlers had settled. To make the stone mill a perfect stone had to be found. It had to be very smooth, or else the rough part would chip and bits of stone would be found in the flour. Dad had one of these mills. When the railroad came to the new site, the present town, the grist mill was built. Be-



Bill Tymchuk in army, with parents, Alexander and Ann Tymchuk, 1945.

sides gristing the flour it also bought the wheat as there were no grain elevators at that time.

Milk was a necessity, especially for youngsters. There were not too many milk cows in those early years. If a homesteader was in a position to buy a milk cow, a rancher farmer by the name of Mr. Logan who farmed on the NW tip of the Beaverhill Lake, could sell him one. However, sometimes these cows weren't tamed and it took much time and effort to train them, a task that proved futile sometimes.

A tragic incident happened in the winter of 1904 when our grandma Tekla insisted on a cold winter day to go to Old Vegreville to buy a few articles. At that time the men were away from home and there was nobody to take her to town. Grandma wouldn't listen to mother to stay home, as our grandma had her own way. When she insisted on doing something she did it. As the weather was cold and the roads were heavy with snow, the store owner insisted that she stay overnight but his effort was in vain. She went back home. About two miles from home she was found a few days later frozen to death. The men who came back home located her. Our parents lived five miles from Old Vegreville.

The proposed railroad west which was built and

surveyed by Canadian Northern Railroad didn't reach the old town, for the reason that when it was surveyed as far as Lavoy, the surveyors came to the owners of the old town and wanted some spending money for themselves, but when this was turned down they must have found the Pied Piper or, in other words, he must have found them. The new town was located about 5 miles NE of the old town. In the fall of 1905, with the coming of the railroad, the business people started moving their buildings to the new location. The railroad, progressing westward, came by the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Monastery which was started in 1903. There the first Ukrainian Catholic church in the district was built; it is a log building which still stands to this date.

Early in April of 1905 the Leachville SD No. 1276 was organized, named after the local farmer who settled earlier, coming from Minnesota. In the summer of the same year the debenture was taken for \$1,000.00 for the building. So apparently the lumber for this school had to be brought from Edmonton as the railroad came to Vegreville in the fall. The school was built about two miles east from our place; it was a one-room structure and may be called a little white school house. It had a big belly heater which stood almost at the back of the room.

I must have started school about 1912, with my brothers and neighboring children. We had to walk to school summer and winter. If it was too cold we either stayed home or dad would take us with sleighs and a team of horses. Sometimes it was hard to obtain teachers during the winter months. So for that period we stayed at home. But when conditions improved and the school district was in better financial position, school was open the whole year round. The barn was built by the school; then it was much handier for the scholars to travel either in winter or summer. The memories of the school days, time and again, still linger; the fun we had playing during recess and lunch time either summer or winter. Time and again we had a little misunderstanding among the school chums but that was temporary.

After finishing my attendance at public school my dad tried to make a farmer of me at the young age, doing the man's job like hauling the grain bundles during threshing time. My wish was to go to high school. After some years helping on the family farm I got married to Ann. We started farming on our own on NE¼ of S 35, T 51, R 16 W 4. Our children, William and Lillian, attended the same old school. In about 1935 or 36 the old school burned down, then the new one was built more modern. It lasted till the enlarged division took over and buses were introduced. William and Lillian both finished their schooling up to grade 8. After finishing public

school they both attended high school in Vegreville, both finishing grade 12.

I still can remember the happy moments of the school when the entire class was preparing for the Christmas concert every year, and it was very exciting. We also had pleasure when our children with other children were performing in the Christmas concerts.

With the coming of the railroad the town started to grow by bits and pieces and many improvements were made. The farmers also made tremendous improvements. The land was cleared for growing various kinds of grain. More cattle were raised as the markets were much closer. Better roads were built that gave the farmers a better chance for hauling their products to market. To do the necessary improvements more equipment had to be purchased for land-clearing and hay-making, getting away from tremendous effort of the scythe to the mower and hay rake. The walking plow gave way to the riding gang plows. Steam threshing outfits dotted the district. In about 1912 my dad and 6 other farmers bought a second-hand threshing outfit. All these improvements were a necessity to build this part of our country as it is now, our heritage.

After starting farming on our own we had to build all necessary buildings, and besides we had to take care of the mortgage that was given to us by our dad. We had a beautiful crop in the meantime, and the prices were reasonable before the depression hit in late 1929; that really turned the fruit basket over. As Barry Broadfoot wrote in his book "The 10 Lost

Years", the living conditions had changed considerably from good years to gloomy ones, the dirty 30's. We only went to town when it was necessary to buy the stuff that was really needed. We had to manage the best we could, at least we weren't hungry. The prices on farm products dropped to rock bottom. During the depression years, to protect the farmers, a few laws were passed such as Debt Adjustment Act and Tax Consolidation Act; they gave considerable relief to farmers who had accounts. Eventually by 1937 and onward the conditions improved.

The Second World War in 1939 changed conditions everywhere. In 1943 our son, William, was drafted into the army just before harvest. Later the same year he joined the active force the same as many Canadians, to defend our country and democracy. After serving 3½ years in the army he was discharged.

My wife Ann wasn't in the best of health in those years due to the constant attack of kidney stones. We were forced to move to Vegreville on doctor's advice, as in those years we didn't have the high-graded roads and those we had were dirt, and in case of rainy weather in summer or snow drifts in winter, they were impassable, a bad situation in case of illness. We sold out in the fall of 1943 by auction sale and moved to Vegreville, but kept the land. We only did straight grain (suit) farming. Lillian was attending high school already in Vegreville.

When William was discharged from the army he enrolled in Guelph Agriculture College in 1947. It was very hard for him the first few months because of missing so many years of schooling. After graduation in 1951 with BSA with honors, his option was dairy. In the fall of the same year he married Eleanor, the brown-eyed girl from Guelph. William worked for the N.A.D. Pool for a few years, then he was transferred to Edmonton to be in charge as supervisor of N.A.D.P. creameries and cheese factories. After his mishap of losing his eyesight he became the registered blind, started training to read and write in Braille and began working for the Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB) in canteens for one year. Then he attended the training course in Toronto in the head office of CNIB to become the field secretary in 1960. After his training he worked for 3 years in Alberta; then he was transferred to B.C. on Vancouver Island. After another 3 years he came back to Calgary and then in May of 1968 became Provincial Director at the Edmonton office.

William and his wife Eleanor still live in the city. Their eldest daughter, Barbara, graduated from the University of Alberta with a B.A. degree, and married Gordon Stirling two years ago. The eldest son, Paul, graduated from Jasper Place High School and



Grandma Anna (Marko) Tymchuk with great-granddaughter, Barbara, daughter of William and Eleanor, 1956.

while attending, studied pipe-fitting. At this school a student has the opportunity to learn a trade. Now he is working as an apprentice with the plumbers; after a certain time he will have to attend NAIT. The youngest son, Mark, just started to attend the Jasper Place High School.

After Lillian graduated from Vegreville High School she had various positions in our town. During the course of time she got a position with the Provincial Government in the local Court House. After working here for a few years she was transferred to the beautiful green valley, to the Land of 12-foot Davis, where the motto is, "If you drink Peace River water you will always come back." At Peace River she has the same position with the Government. After a few years, while living there, she got married to Andrew. They opened up their own business, a flower and gift shop. After many years in this business, they sold out but kept the building. After selling the business she went to work as legal secretary for the local law office of Mr. Claude Campbell. When an opening in the local Court House was available for the position of Court House Clerk, Lillian was accepted, in which position she is still working. Living in Peace River since 1953, she has a number of wonderful friends, and is involved in many organizations.

Ann and I retired from active farming in 1967. We sold our land as all things must come to an end. Now we have become senior citizens like many more through our wide Dominion. While I was involved with farming, Ann was looking after the vegetables and the flower garden. Now I have been promoted to the position of gardener and I enjoy it. Besides, we are also involved in volunteer work for CNIB and work with the Senior Citizens Club in Vegreville.

Tyzuk Family

Fred Tyzuk came to Canada from his native Ukraine in 1928, leaving his wife and three small children, Olga, Nina and Nick in the "old country" till such time as he could find a home and become established. He was a painter, and a fine one at that, having been taught the trade by his father. He was kept very busy at Edmonton and later in Vegreville.

It was only a matter of ten years since the end of the first World War in which Fred fought in the Czarist Army. He had spent a total of seven years in the military, four years in compulsory training and three years in active duty. He distinguished himself well, as he earned a silver cross and two medals for bravery.

With the kind of turmoil that existed in Central Europe during those years, Fred was anxious to leave



Good friends meet, August, 1979. June Hughes, Arthur Fahy, M. Tyzuk and Joseph P. Dubuc.

to make a better life in Canada, which was portrayed in glowing colors in those immigration brochures.

A year after his arrival in Canada, Fred made arrangements for his wife and children to join him, and in July 1929 the family arrived and settled in Vegreville. For three months Fred was very busy painting, under contract to C. Gordon. In October, when the worst depression in history hit the western world, Fred was out of a job as people simply stopped painting their buildings.

These were difficult times but for a recently arrived immigrant family who couldn't speak English and who were faced with an entirely strange culture, the situation was desperate indeed. The family managed to get by until the spring of 1930, at which time Fred set out on foot in the surrounding area to find work. He was able to find various odd jobs at Lavoy where the family moved and made their home from then on.

Surprisingly, during the 30's when jobs were scarce, Fred managed to keep busy at all sorts of jobs, including some painting, wallpapering — very popular in those days, and in these days, and kalsomining. ("What's that?" you ask — Ask any old-timer.)

He also became the "night man" for the CNR, working with Peter Rutherford. His job was to meet the two night trains at the ungodly hours of 1:30 AM and 4:00 AM, which he did for many years. Remember when there were four passenger trains every day, two daytime and two nighttime, not to mention the numerous freight trains that passed through and stopped at Lavoy? During the "dirty 30's" yet!!!

The Tyzuk children attended school and completed their high school at Lavoy. During this time they were very active in the United Church, par-

icipating in the Sunday School, C.G.I.T. and Young Peoples. Olga and Nina even managed to take piano lessons, thanks to the kindness of Dr. and Mrs. Arthur and the use of their piano.

Mrs. Tyzuk planted an enormous garden every year, including a huge sunflower crop, whereby everybody in the village (certainly all the young people) learned to eat sunflower seeds.

Olga became a teacher attending Normal School in Edmonton. Nick went on to work for the Department of Transport in the weather office. Nina took a business course at Alberta College.

After the family left and there were no longer night trains to meet, Fred was employed as caretaker at the Lavoy school until his retirement. After a brief illness, he passed away in 1961, at the age of 72.

At present Nick is employed in the Red Deer area where he and his wife Cammy make their home on a farm. They have three grown sons, one of whom is married and has two sons.

Nina and Olga both live in Edmonton. Nina Herr has a family of four, three of whom are married. She also has five grandchildren. Olga Blondheim has five children, two of whom are married. She also has two grandchildren. Olga was widowed when her children were of school age. She enrolled at the University of Alberta and obtained her Bachelor of Education Degree and has been teaching school in Edmonton for the past ten years.

Nick also attended University at the same time as Olga. He obtained his R.I.A. (Registered Industrial Accountant) at Carleton University in Ottawa.

Mrs. Tyzuk continues to live at Lavoy and is fortunate enough to enjoy good health and good friends and neighbors. She is very much involved in community activities and still grows a big garden — minus the sunflower crop.

Ursulak, John and Rose and Family

Mrs. Rose (Frozina) and Mr. John Ursuliak were born in the village of Szypennitz, in the region of Bukowina. Rose arrived in Canada at the age of one, with her parents Dugea and John Illchuk in 1903. John arrived in Canada in 1914, after serving in the Austrian Army. They got married in 1916, and settled in the Shepentzi area, east of Willingdon, where they lived through World War I and the depression years. The closest village was Vegreville and the nearest town, Edmonton.

In 1939, Rose and John bought land from the Hudson's Bay Company one and one-half miles east of Vegreville. They moved their family here to be closer to the better educational and medical facilities that Vegreville had to offer.

Very little of the land was cultivated; most was

still in virgin prairie. John, being a carpenter and farmer, built all the buildings and helped others. Their nearest neighbors were Mr. and Mrs. Balaam to the south, and Mr. and Mrs. Podealuk, whose farm is now the Experimental Farm.

Mr. and Mrs. Ursuliak were active members in the Alberta Wheat Pool and the St. John's Russo Orthodox Church.

During their struggles to fulfill their aim and objective by living a rich and full life for themselves and their children, the second world war broke out. Two children, Kay and Tom, served overseas. Fortunately, both returned in good health.

Living became easier, economy soared. There was more money for better machinery and improvements to the home. Gone were the days of threshing machines and threshing crews. Bringing in the harvest wasn't dependent upon the help of the neighbors. The combines entered the scene and horses were replaced by tractors. The zinging sound of cutting firewood was replaced with electricity. An era had begun that ended the hard physical toil for the farmer. Life on the farm was much easier with more time for play and relaxation.

On July 10, 1965, Mr. and Mrs. Ursuliak had the good fortune of celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary. They raised eighteen children during that 50 years of marriage and are blessed with many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

In 1966, Rose and John moved into the town of Vegreville and there they enjoyed seven years of restful, happy retired years together. On August 8, 1973, John Ursuliak passed away at the age of 88 years young. Mrs. Ursuliak continued living in Vegreville until 1978. She now resides in the Hardisty Nursing Home in Edmonton, close to where most of her family live.

Following this brief history of Mr. and Mrs. Ursuliak, are their children who carry forth with the learned wisdom, morals, love and understanding from two wonderful people, "their parents".

The eldest, Martha (Mrs. Mike) Osinchuk passed away February 26, 1979, in Vermilion. She shared her life with her husband, Mike, in Clandonald and Vermilion, where she taught school until her retirement. They have two sons, Richard and Bob, and three grandchildren.

Mary (Mrs. Nick) Ambrose lives in Edmonton and teaches piano, which she has done for quite some time. They have two children, Lorraine in Vancouver, and Don in Toronto, Ontario. Don and his wife, Marilyn, have made Nick and Mary the proud grandparents of two boys.

Kay (Mrs. Bert) Pyers lives in Ludlow, Massachusetts. Kay and her husband who is now retired

from the U.S. Airforce, have had the opportunity of living in many states in the United States and many overseas countries. They have three sons, Don, Bob and David, and two grandsons.

Wilfred, being the first son in the family and having no maternal uncles, was a very welcome addition to the family. He started school in the rural school district "Bojan" and when the family moved to Vegreville he attended the Vegreville schools. Mr. Gordon Strong, a long-time principal of the Vegreville High School, claimed that he taught all, but for the exception of one, of the Ursulak children.

From high school, Wilfred took up employment with the Imperial Lumber Company under the management of Mr. Wesley Headrick. Mr. Headrick, a very good and shrewd business man, taught Wilfred very much about the business trade. After working in the lumber trade for a year and a half, Wilfred took up a position in the hardware retail trade, "Vegreville Hardware", under the management of John W. Shapka. Wilfred maintained this position for approximately ten years.

It was during this period of employment that Wilfred met and married Rosalee Yaremichuk.

After two years of marriage, Wilfred and Rosalee purchased a farm two miles south-east of Vegreville. Wilfred continued to work at the store and farmed after hours and weekends until they got better established in their mixed farming operation. At this time, Wilfred left his association with the retail business and concentrated his full time and energy on the farm, specializing in Holstein-Friesian cattle.

In 1952, Lynda was born, followed by Cathi in 1954. An automobile accident in April, 1969, claimed the life of Rosalee, leaving behind her two school-aged daughters and her husband.

Lynda is now a Dental Assistant and works in Leduc. She and her husband, Shelby Laczko, live on their acreage in Kavanagh, Alberta. Cathi is employed with Alberta Agriculture as a stenographer in the District Extension Office in Vegreville. She has two girls, Trudy and Nicole.

Wilfred enjoyed his years of working with the public in the retail trade and this prompted him, in 1965, to run for the position of Councillor on the County Council, County of Minburn No. 27. Wilfred was elected and he served in this capacity for 12 years (a number of times he was re-elected by acclamation) until he sold the family farm and moved into the town of Vegreville.

During his tenure as a councillor for the County of Minburn, Wilfred served on various committees such as a board member on the Minburn Auxiliary Hospital and Nursing Home for six years, four of them as chairman. He served as a chairman for a two-

year term (1974 to 1976) on the Provincial Executive of the Alberta School Trustees' Association. These two years were very challenging and engrossing as it involved attending educational conferences throughout Canada and U.S.A.

At present time Wilfred is a Real Estate Salesman. He is also a trustee on the Minburn Board of Education where he has held the position of Chairman for the last five years. He is a member of the Vegreville and District Chamber of Commerce, a board member of the Central Home Management Committee, a board member of the Preventative Social Services Committee, as well as belonging to the Vegreville Elks Lodge, St. John's Masonic Lodge, and the Rotary Club.

In December, 1978, after being a widower for ten years, Wilfred married Jane Tennant. The couple lives in Vegreville and they both find the time to enjoy golf and do a little travelling.

Tom married Catherine Zaparozan of Vegreville. They have two daughters, Debbie and Carol, and three sons, David, Steven and Wesley. They have two granddaughters. At present, the entire Tom Ursulak family resides in Edmonton.

Elizabeth (Beth) took her nurses training in the Vegreville General Hospital and is continuing her nursing career in Edmonton. She has one daughter, Lorna-Jean, and one son, Malcolm.

Mike married Betty Bohaychuk of Vegreville. They now reside in Fort St. John, B.C. Their eldest daughter Gaylene, and her husband and son, are living in Saudi Arabia. Michael, the only son, is practicing law in Calgary. Donna and Bonny are both married and live in Fort St. John and Peace River, respectively.

Alex married Jean Robertson, a nurse who trained in the Vegreville General Hospital and is continuing her nursing career in Edmonton. They live in Edmonton and have three children: Judy (who is now married) and Wendy are following their mother's profession, and Marie is still in high school.

Irene (Mrs. Ed) Gach lives in Edmonton. They have one daughter, Sharon, who is studying education at the University of Alberta.

Doreen (Mrs. Wendell) Rossman finished her schooling in Vegreville and then obtained a job at the Treasury Department at the Parliament Buildings. Here she met Wendell who had, just a few months earlier, arrived from Switzerland. Wendell was born in Munich in 1926, but due to the political situation (as early as 1934) their family had to leave. From that time they lived in Switzerland, then Austria. When the Germans came into Austria, they again left (escaped really) for Switzerland, where he lived until coming to Canada in 1951.

Doreen and Wendell were married in 1953 and moved to Calgary. Wendell became a Registered Architect a few years later and they then returned to Edmonton.

In 1958 it was suggested to the couple by a physician friend that, since they were both very young, they move to a warmer and drier country considering Doreen's increasing discomfort from arthritis. So Phoenix is where they ended up at on January 1, 1959. Again, Wendell had to repeat examinations in order to qualify to practice architecture. We have found that no University or Country accepts the qualifications of another, so you have to prove your knowledge over and over again. This time Wendell went all the way and received his Doctorate (there are only a handful of Doctorates in the Architectural Profession). Wendell started his own practice about 1963.

With Wendell's parents having moved back to Munich in 1951 (after about 16 years), the Wendell Rossman family started to make their semi-annual trips to Europe.

As of the moment, the family is as follows:

Carmel was born in Edmonton, Alberta in November, 1954. She has been married over one year now to a wonderful young man from Munich. He is in the "Book Sale" business in which Carmel has helped until now. They are expecting their first child this coming Christmas, 1979.

Patricia (Patti) was born in Edmonton, Alberta, in March of 1958. Patti is deep into her studies in "Music Performance" (viola) and is studying this year at the "Julliard School of Music" in New York City.

Wendy was born in Phoenix, Arizona, in January, 1961. Wendy graduated from high school in June of 1978 and has entered into a "Pre-Med" Course at the University of Tucson.

Michael was born in Phoenix, Arizona in May, 1962. He is a senior in High School and hopes to join Wendy in the "Pre-Med" course next year.

Wendy and Michael have a dream of going into a Medical Practice together. Dreams are, of course, subject to change.

Connie (Constance) was born in Phoenix, Arizona in March, 1966. Connie is in her last year of elementary school. Off to High School next year and then? Who knows??!

Doreen was born in Canada in August, 1932. Now that her family is well on their way in life, Doreen has come into some of her own time. With the aid of Wendell and the advice of a few successful friends in the business, Doreen has entered into the Arabian Horse World and has started a business breeding Arabian Show Horses. Doreen also has a pilot's license.

Wendell's architectural practice has now expanded to cover projects all over the U.S. into Canada, Germany, France, Belgium, Ireland, Livreville-Gabon, Africa, and the Philippines.

The family is encouraged to do things together. They all ski, hike, backpack, and travel together as much as possible. All the members in the family play musical instruments (Patti plays two), some better than others, but they still have had some wonderful ensembles together!

The rest is written in the stars!

John attended the Vegreville schools. He married Merle Cairns and they have four children, Hughie, Dawn, Christine and John Paul. They live on part of the original Ursulak family farm.

John is presently employed as a fieldman for the County of Minburn no.27. Meryl is the principal of the R.R. Cairns School. The children are all very involved in music and the whole family enjoys farm life.

Vicky (Mrs. Paul) Ormrod lives in Toronto, Ontario. She still pursues her talent in sewing. Paul and Vicky have one daughter, Jane and one son, Tommy.

Martin George was born in Willingdon, May 22, 1937, and moved with his parents to Vegreville in 1939. It was here that he received his education. Still living at home after finishing school, he became the first local employee to work at the Experimental Farm, where he worked for four years (until 1958).

In June, 1957, Martin married a local girl that he had gone to school with, Iona Tillapaugh, daughter of Virgil Tillapaugh. They continued to live on the farm until 1969.

During that time their son, Rick, was born in 1958 and their daughter, Wanda, was born in 1962. Also during this time, Martin worked at the Imperial Lumber Yard which has since closed down.

In 1969, the farm was sold and Martin moved with his family to White Rock, B.C. They have their own home there and Martin is still employed in the lumber business.

Ruby trained at the General Hospital in Edmonton and is now a Registered Nurse working in the Intensive Heart Surgery Ward in the University Hospital in Edmonton.

Patricia (Pat) completed her studies in Dental Technology and is now working in a Dental Laboratory in Edmonton. She has two daughters, Shelly and Rena, and one son, Jerry.

Connie (Mrs. Steve) Egbert graduated from Vegreville High School. She then worked in Edmonton until her marriage to Steve. Steve and Connie live in Edmonton with their two daughters, Diane and Sandy.

Joyce (Mrs. Ernie) Luders married in Vegreville

and now lives in St. Albert where she works as an Interior Designer. They have two daughters, Elaine and Brenda, and one son, John.

Diane (Mrs. Bob) Schmid attended the Vegreville schools. Upon graduating she worked in Edmonton for a short while. Then she returned to Vegreville and held a position at the Court House for approximately one and one-half years.

Diane and her husband have lived in various places such as Ft. McMurray, Vancouver, Fort St. John and Edmonton. They now reside in Victoria with their two sons, Gregory and Kevin.

Volk, Frank and Family

by Frank Volk

I, Frank Volk, was born in South Dakota, U.S.A. on December 25, 1907. In 1908, I came to Southern Alberta with my parents and attended school until the age of 15. I also helped on the farm. In August, 1924, my brother Joe and I left home to find work. The crops were very poor for a few years.

Joe and I went out west of Lethbridge and obtained jobs, worked a few days stooking, came back to Lethbridge and on to Vulcan, Alberta where we got work the same evening we arrived there. Here we worked for about two weeks harvesting. Threshing would not start for about another week, so we thought we would go on to Vegreville. We knew we had some cousins around Vegreville, but had never met them.

We arrived in Vegreville at one a.m. September 12, 1924. We went for breakfast and asked some people if they knew the Brandles (our cousins). They told us that Brandles lived around Old Vegreville, south-west of Vegreville. We started walking. At 11 a.m. we got there — we didn't know any of them. But it so happened that Mrs. Brandle's daughter-in-law was there, and said Uncle John's boys are here. We stayed for 3 days. I got a job with the Gorsline Brothers, stooking until threshing started at the Bran-

dles. I went back to the Brandles and worked until freeze-up. We never wrote back home to let the folks know where we were.

I sure got a surprise when I came in from work one evening — my Dad was at my cousin's place. He never knew I was there — he had come to look for some land. He went back home and moved up to Vegreville and farmed the Jim Stanton farm. I went farming with him until 1931, then my brother Joe and I went farming together in 1934. I got married to Marie Venne in 1935 and my brother and I split up partnership.

In 1945, I quit farming and moved to Vegreville. We had 3 children — Alvin, Lorraine, and Theresa. I started to work with the carpenters and worked a while and got my finger sawed off. I then went back on my brother-in-law's farm and raised chickens. From there, we moved back to town, got a job with the freight and express delivery until 1951, when I got a contract with the town hauling garbage (from 1952-1958). Then the town did not want any garbage burned and put their own truck on, so I went on driving their truck with two helpers and stayed until 1973, when I retired.

I was flooded in 1954. I lived across from the hospital; the town took the lot back and gave me a lot where I am at the present time on 48 A Street and 55 Avenue.



Volks sawing wood on Jim Stanton's farm east of Vegreville, 1926.



Stacking hay, 1936.



Mother Volk's poultry on Dr. Brown's farm, 1919.



Frank, Julia and Frances Volk sleigh-riding on J. Stanton's farm, 1928.

My wife and I are alone now, the children are gone. Alvin is living in Edmonton with his wife and two daughters. Lorraine passed away in 1977, leaving two boys. Theresa is living on the farm; they have with them two girls and two boys. That leaves us with 8 grandchildren.

Volk, John

by Frank Volk

John Volk, a native of Germany, born October 12, 1879, came from Georgendal, Russia to Aberdeen, South Dakota. His father's name was also John Volk; he was born in Germany in 1843 and died in 1895. He farmed in Germany. He had five children with his first wife, who died in 1883, and had three more children through a second marriage.

John Volk, Jr. came to the U.S.A., as a young lad of around 21 years in 1900. He met Mary Eva Fischer in Aberdeen, South Dakota and married her on February 10, 1901 in Aberdeen, South Dakota. She was a native of Germany and came from Odessa, Russia, to South Dakota with her parents and brothers about 1900, travelling on a ship called Maria Theresa.

John and Mary Eva farmed in South Dakota, then came to Southern Alberta and farmed at Burdett, Section 14, township 9, range 12, west of the fourth meridian. They had five children in South Dakota, one being a little girl that died when she was five days old. Four more children were born at Burdett.

There were antelope, kitfox coyotes, badgers, gophers, wild ducks, prairie chickens, grass sparrows and meadow larks. As it was all prairie, there were no trees — just rose bushes and buck brush.

For a few years there were good crops, then in the 1920's the crops became very poor as there was less rain every year. Grain had to be cut with a reaper pulled by four horses and it would elevate the grain into a hayrack affair. (It was built with laths and one side was lower than the other — this was driven alongside the reaper). There was one driving the

team and the other one scattered the grain around until it was full. Then another team and rack would come and take its place. Then the grain would be hauled away and put in stacks. Later on it would be threshed.

Young Russian thistle was cut and stacked for winter feed for the stock. No wild fruit of any kind was available so the family would go out and eat the rose hips when they got ripe.

Grasshopper poison had to be obtained and scattered all over as the grasshoppers were plentiful and they ate the grain.

Old railroad ties and wooden apple boxes provided by the storekeeper were used to start and burn the fires as there was no firewood available. Also, a coal mine was not too far away. Cow and horse manure was gathered in the pastures and put in an old building to dry, along with manure from the sheep sheds. The manure, when good and dry, would be used for burning in the stove during the winter. Mrs. Volk made the girls underclothes from 100 lb. flour sacks. (The Volk family bought flour in 100-lb. white cotton sacks.)

The Volk Family left Burdett in October of 1924 and went as far as Daysland by train, and then moved their belongings by teams with the wagons in the snow to a farm north of Holden that Mr. Fischer (Mrs. Volk's brother) rented. There they stayed for the winter until March, whereupon they rented Jim Stanton's farm — five miles south-east of Vegreville.

After that, the Volks farmed around Vegreville. Saskatoons, pincherries, strawberries, chokecherries and raspberries were plentiful on the Stanton farm. So there was lots of fruit and plenty of wood, feed and grain.

In 1925, the family moved to the Stanton farm.

Mr. John Volk, Sr. passed away on March 23, 1964; his wife, Mary Eva Volk passed away on June 21, 1962.

John Volk married Alice Berge of Tacoma, Washington, U.S.A., on June 25, 1927. They had five children. John passed away February 26, 1971.

Katherine Volk, born November 1, 1903, died November 5, 1903.

Stephen Volk married Ada Nielson of Carman-gay, Alberta on November 8, 1930. They had eight children. Stephen's death (February 15, 1974) was followed by Ada's on October 23, 1974.

Joseph Volk married Rose Theroux of Warwick, Alberta on January 7, 1936. The couple had no children.

Frank Volk married Marie Venne of Warwick, Alberta on October 23, 1934. They had three children.

Frances Volk married Alex Goodland of England on November 19, 1935. They had one child.

Martha Volk married Joseph Theroux of Warwick on October 12, 1936. They had two children.

Tony Volk married Helen Johnson of Two Hills, Alberta, on June 4, 1941. They had one child.

Wagner, Jake and Ruth

Jake's parents farmed in the Brush Hill area — E ½ 2-53-14. He and his sister went to school there. Jake and Ruth Hohn were married in 1935 in April. The sledding was poor, so they drove to the ceremony in a wagon. They lived with his folks for two years, then they moved to town where he worked for Thomas Garage when Buster Shaw was the boss. Steve Nichol worked there, too. Jake and Ruth lived in a house located where Chico's is now. She remembers the "Case of the Vanishing Clothes". She had hung out a line-full in the back yard, but found none when she went to collect them. Where could they have gone? Nearby was an old barn, used by neighboring children as a playhouse. That's where the clothes were! The kids had taken them to play "dress-up".

Jake and Ruth moved back to the farm when his parents retired to town. They had a mixed farm, and in winter, Jake worked in the garage to help pay for equipment. Often, coming home on late winter nights, he would get stuck and have to shovel out, for the roads were not built up then and there were few snowplows. In the midst of a heavy harvest in 1963, Jake died suddenly. At once the neighbors pitched in and got the crop off. Gradually Ruth disposed of the animals and the farm, as there were no children to keep the place for. She moved to town, buying Mrs. Forcade's bungalow where she still lives. At that time it was one of few houses on the south side of Hospital ("Diaper") Avenue; now there is too much traffic and no empty lots around it. Ruth is semi-retired but keeps active at odd jobs, baby-sitting for nieces and nephews, baking apple strudels, and going to bingos.

Walker, Henry (Bosco) and Nellie by Bosco and Nellie Walker

Bosco Walker emigrated from England to the Vegreville district in 1924. He came of his own free will but in reality, Nora, his sister took him by the ear and said, "We're going!" They arrived on October 9, 1924; Bosco in his bowler hat and the weather colder than billy be d——! Nora was duly married to Jack Rogers, her betrothed. They and Bosco and Stan Walker lived together until the next spring.

Bosco's Canadian education began with this little incident that happened while helping with threshing at the Gottlieb Hohn farm. Gottlieb told Bosco where

to go to load the grain and haul it to Vegreville. At noon, all the other hands disappeared. Bosco was left wandering around the yard as no one told him to go into the house for dinner. In England, one never entered a house without being invited. Bosco missed his dinner that day but learned in a hurry that class rules didn't apply in this country!

In the spring of 1926, Bosco went to work for J. McK. Hughes at Vegreville. Later Stan and Bosco rented the John Flewell farm in the Brush Hill District — this location is remembered by the house that was situated in the middle of the road. The land had been surveyed but the house was built on the wrong side of the pegs. This was rented on a share crop basis. Embarrassing moments happened then, too. Stan and Bosco took a daily evening swim — skinny-dipping and diving off the bridge. It happened that the neighbour girls, Freda and Ruth Hohn, were out looking for saskatoons. Well!

Farming wasn't without problems then either. All six of the horses died after they broke into a grain bin. To top it off, the horses weren't paid for yet. Now, they had a debt owing to Ingles Brothers and no horses to continue the farming venture. They met Bill McGowan. He sold them four horses for ten dollars apiece . . . this price at a time when horses were worth \$100 each!

What was the catch? The four specimens were named Pot-Belly, Spindle Legs, Pacer and White Wind Splitter (this was the giraffe type). Nevertheless, the crop was sowed. Three of the horses died the next summer, but Spindle Legs survived for years and years. This was a very dry year. The rain finally came and the second growth grew higher and even covered the stooks of the first cut. Times improved.

In 1927, they got a bumper crop of wheat and oats off their second year of renting this land. To solve the horse situation, Bosco and Stan would take on horse-



(L. to r.) — Stan Walker, Nora Rogers, Pop Walker, Bosco Walker, 1930's.

breaking. The deal was that they would keep the horse for a year. During this time, the horse was broken and they got free use of the animal for that year. They made these terms to acquire the use of six horses. To earn extra money, Stan and Bosco did custom wood-sawing.

Another neighborhood adventure was the killing of turkeys at the George Carter farm. Bosco did the sticking and Stan and George the picking. In an alarmed voice, Mrs. Carter yelled for George — one turkey was strutting around the kitchen, naked as a jay-bird, and calling, “gobble, gobble!”

In 1925, Pop Walker came to join his family, making his home with Nora. He moved in with his sons in 1927. The following year, 1928, the Flewell place was sold to Bradshaws. Bosco, Stan and Pop moved to the shack on sec. four in the Brush Hill District — Soldier Settlement Board land. Rogers moved from there to the next quarter east. Bosco and Stan farmed the quarter of four that year.

The Walkers moved to the Stanton place in 1929. Jack Williams joined the crew as a partner. The spring of this year was a very dry one and the beginning of the depression set in. The brothers bought a new '29 Chev. car for \$960 and charged it; never suspecting what a long, hard time it was going to be to pay for it.

Stan and Bosco started playing horseshoes — figured this was a way to have some fun and also win a bit of spending money. Pop kept a few hens and sold the eggs to earn a bit of beer money. Prices ranged from 2¢ to 5¢ a dozen. One didn't get rich on the sale of thirty dozen eggs. A short crop grew that year.

Depression stories were not all bad. In 1930, Bosco became acquainted with the McAreavy family. Leo and Lawrence were doing some breaking on the Tommy Farrell homestead that belonged to A. W. Fraser. Before long, he met Nellie. Courting days consisted of going to barn dances and card parties, playing 500 and often accompanied by Margaret and Charlie Brinton. Nellie and Bosco were married November 15, 1934. They took up residence on the old Killoran homestead, adjacent to the Alex Riemer place. This had previously been an old overnight stopping place along the road to Lavoy. Pop stayed with Stan and Eileen. The next year he moved to Bosco's home.

Setbacks came into the story again. Wheat was the crop that year. All depended on that crop. August 9, the grain froze solid. A cold winter followed with ten cows to milk. The sleigh was used all winter and the car placed on blocks.

The spring of 1935, Bosco began seeing double vision. A month and a half was spent in the Edmonton University Hospital. By 1936, the price of grain increased, but this didn't help the family as very little

grain was left. In June of 1937, four 3-year-old fat steers were sold for the sum of \$25 dollars apiece.

Bernard was born in 1938. World War II broke out in 1939. Albert arrived in 1942.

When Bosco moved to the Killoran place, there was no well. Stan and Bosco dug a four-foot square hole — down thirty-five feet. No water was reached so they gave up and had a well bored. Several years later, Bosco had some pigs ready to ship to market. One day he could find no pigs. The missing 15 pigs meant a lot to the family income. A search revealed the spot where the pigs had rooted under the fence. Where were they now? Of course, down in the abandoned well hole. A contraption was rigged up and with a lot of effort the pigs were saved and hauled out of the hole. Shortly, George Bourgette drove in with his double-decker truck to haul the pigs to market. The pigs were all worked up and wouldn't go into the truck. Two hours later, each pig had been man-handled into the truck. After all this escapade, George Bourgette said, “To think, not even a broken leg to one pig! The Lord must have been looking after you.”

The farm was sold in 1948 to Alex Riemer and the Bosco Walker family moved to the Bentley District in 1945. The new farm was compatible to livestock farming. Pat was born in 1945, Frances in 1949, and Ray in 1951. Bosco continued farming until the deterioration of his eyes forced him to decline his farming activities. Bernard took over the family farm in 1967. Bosco and Nellie continue to live in their home on the farm. Bosco has developed a new business out of an old hobby; the braiding of halters, lariats and ski ropes out of recycled baler twine. Nellie completed seven years of part-time nursing at the Three-Way Hospital in Rimbey and Eckville Municipal Hospital. The Walker children are all married. Pat passed away July 1, 1978, as a result of a boating accident.

Now, in their retirement years, both Bosco and Nellie are happy reminiscing about the good friends and times of their years in both the Vegreville and Bentley Districts.

Walker, Herb and Leona by Leona Walker

Herb and Leona settled in the Vegreville area in November, 1946. They were both raised in Saskatchewan but had visited Vegreville several times. Herb's two sisters, Rose Gienger and Alvina Flaig, lived there for many years. Herb had been in the Canadian Army for five years, 1939-45, and Leona taught school in rural Saskatchewan, but when Herb came back from overseas service they decided to start farming.

They bought a half-section of land through the

V.L.A. in the Park Grove district. By then their older son Laurie was born and later they had a daughter, Sharon, and another son, Donald.

In 1954 they sold their Park Grove farm to Berton and Henry Ziegler and bought another half-section south-west of Vegreville from Con and Peggy Giebelhaus. It was on the Holden road in the Ideal district. By then the Ideal school was gone and they joined the Old Vegreville Community Association. The three young ones always rode the bus to Vegreville schools.

Herb and Leona always enjoyed the local card parties and other socials. They were very active members of the Vegreville Square Dance Club, as well as members of the Vegreville Legion and Legion Auxiliary. They took part in both the Park Grove and Waskawa Farm Forums for many years.

Herb started to raise purebred Guernsey cattle in 1957 and the whole family became very interested in the Vegreville 4-H Dairy Club and the livestock exhibitions. The children won many awards with their 4-H calves and Herb took many prizes with his Guernseys at fairs in Alberta. In 1963 Herb was the first Alberta Guernsey breeder to exhibit at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in Toronto.

At the same time Leona was busy with the Alberta Women's Institute. She enjoyed it very much, both locally with Wendy Brook W.I. and as Constituency Convener for Vegreville-Vermilion area.

After the children grew up and moved away Herb and Leona continued to farm, but in 1971 they sold the home quarter to Hermann and Esther Huijsink and moved to Calgary. During the 25 years they

farmed, rural life changed a lot. The low dirt roads were made into high-graded gravel ones. This meant the use of more cars in all seasons and school buses became a familiar sight. Country schools closed and became community centres as bigger, more modern schools were built in the towns. Farm machinery got bigger and threshing machines gave way to combines at harvest time. Farm homes enjoyed electricity, phones and running water. Agriculture, in most aspects, became more specialized as the age of technology was born. It was an exciting time to be engaged in the business of farming.

Now Herb is in the transport business and Leona works for Woodward's Stores Ltd. They enjoy travelling each winter.

Laurie married Audrey Charters of Fredericton, New Brunswick. They live in Carstairs, Alberta, and have two boys.

Sharon married Frank O'Keefe of St. John's, Newfoundland. They live in Calgary and have two boys and a girl.

Donald married Cheryl Oberg of Forestburg, Alberta. They live in Sterling, Alberta, and have one boy and one girl.

Herb and Leona would be pleased to have any of their Vegreville friends call on them at 4635 Whitehorn Drive, N.E., Calgary.

Walker, Stan **by Eileen Woods**

Coming from England in the spring of 1922, two young farmers, Stan Walker and Jack Rogers, landed at St. John, N.B., aboard the *Melita*, a small boat, which brought many young farmers to Canada to start a life's work. They proceeded to Pickardville to stay with friends and after a good rest and visit, Stan decided to contact the Soldier Settlement Board in order to obtain land. Stan was an Imperial veteran, having been with the 10th Hussars, a cavalry unit overseas. He was advised that to qualify for a farm he would have to work a year on it. He was sent out to the J. McK. Hughes farm in the Vegreville area. In 1923 he was able to acquire the S.W. 4-53-14 in the Brush Hill District, later to have Jack Rogers settle on the S.E. 4-53-14. They worked together brushing and breaking the land. They built a three-roomed shack on Stan's place and eventually were joined by Stan's sister Nora (Mrs. J. Rogers) and Bosco, his younger brother. The need for more land was evident and Stan and Bosco rented the John Flewall place, the place with the house in the middle of the road. Later the Bradshaw family lived there. Carl Handy lived with them till spring, then moved to another farm. In 1925 Stan's father, Albert F., more commonly called Pop, came from England and made his home with his



Donald Walker being presented with Alberta Dept. of Agriculture trophy at Provincial 4H Dairy show in Red Deer. Donald had the best dairy yearling heifer. Hon. Bob Clark made the presentation, 1966.

family. He was the cook a good part of the time and loved to hunt and ride the pony. The want for more acres sent them to the district of Ridgepark where they rented the J.J. Stanton place and farmed in partnership until 1934 when Stan married Eileen McCarty and Bosco married Nellie McAreavy, both nurses. Stan and Eileen remained on the Stanton place till 1947 when they sold out in Brush Hill and moved to Bentley, west of Lacombe in the Outlet district. They began mixed farming there till the family of two girls were through school. Margueritte graduated from Bentley High and took her education at the U. of A. in Edmonton. Later she became Mrs. R. Palm and is still teaching at Eckville Elementary, besides being Vice-Principal and Librarian at the school. She has a family of four. Lorraine, our second girl, graduated from Bentley High and chose banking as her career. She later married Alvernice Vig and they farm in South Peace River at Hythe, Alberta. They have a family of four boys and a girl. After the girls left home, Eileen and Stan moved to Rimbey, rented the farm and Eileen went nursing. Stan found himself working at the curling rink, caretaking at the Bank of Montreal and was Supervisor of the Mt. Auburn cemetery. In 1964 they decided Red Deer was to be their home, so they settled in the downtown area. Stan loved his garden and flowers and spent many hours in the yard. Eventually arthritis caused him to have two hip replacements at different times, though he never complained. He was an avid curler in earlier years so he settled for bingo when he had to give up curling. Eileen went on staff at the Dr. Richard Parsons's Auxiliary Hospital and retired due to health reasons in 1974. Failing health forced Stan into Hospital where he passed away Oct. 1975. He was laid to rest in Alto-Rest Memorial Gardens with Military Honours. Comrades from Rimbey and Red Deer attended in a group. Eileen



(L. to r.) — Joe Dubuc, Fr. Garnier, Mr. and Mrs. Walker, in front of Vegreville Observer office, 1950's.

still resides in Red Deer and is now Mrs. T. H. Woods.

Walsby, Frank and Hazel

by Hazel (Trimble) Walsby

I was born and raised on our farm west of Vegreville and went to school at the Vermilion School (two miles west of our home) and Vegreville.

In 1937, I left home and began my nurses' training at the Royal Inland Hospital in Kamloops, B.C. It was an exciting three years. We worked very hard, had a lot of fun, and complained constantly. Of the 17 girls who started with me, 3 girls contracted Tuberculosis, one had a nervous breakdown, and 2 got Rheumatic Fever, which resulted in heart disease. We all managed to graduate in 1940.

The war had begun and suddenly there were jobs or military service for everyone.

I met my husband-to-be about the time I finished training; a Kamloops man by the name of Frank Walsby. He went into the Air Force as an Aerial Photographer, was stationed in New Brunswick for a time, then returned to the Pacific Coast where he did aerial photography all through the war.

In 1941 I went into the Canadian Army Medical Corps as a Nursing Sister, serving in Esquimalt and Nanaimo Military Hospitals until I married Frank in 1942.

During the war we moved from Prince Rupert to Victoria, to Sydney near Pat Bay, to Vancouver where we lived in two different places; then we moved to Langley Prairie where Frank was demobilized from the Abbotsford Airbase.

We were blessed with two daughters, Marianne in Vancouver in 1943, and Carol in New Westminster in 1945.

The first home we owned was in Surrey where Frank finished a small house we had bought in Surrey in 1946.

Frank and two other Veterans formed an aerial photographic company after the war. One of their biggest jobs was to photograph and map the area of the North Saskatchewan River on which the Diefenbaker Dam was built.

In 1950 Frank decided to take a job with the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company in Vancouver. He was an agent for two years, then an Assistant Manager for two years. From 1956-60 he was a Field Training Instructor, travelling from the east coast to Vancouver Island, training Assistant Managers in all main Canadian cities.

In 1960 Frank was promoted to a manager in Regina and later to manager of the Province of Saskatchewan.

Marianne returned to Vancouver in 1961 to take

nurses' training at the Vancouver General Hospital. Shortly after graduation in 1964 she was married to Trevor Swangard and they live in Eugene, Oregon. Their children are Dan, age 13, and Jill, age 10.

Carol took university in Saskatchewan and did social work for around 3 years. She then took teachers' training and now teaches school in Abbotsford, B.C.

Frank retired from his job in 1973 and we moved back to Mission, B.C. where we bought an acreage and planted 3000 Christmas tree seedlings.

Frank became ill that fall and we discovered he had cancer of the lymph system. In spite of X-ray, radium, and chemotherapy, he lost the fight in 1975. Those last years were the best years of his life, he always said.

I have sold our little farm and live in a Cooperative Housing Complex in Mission, called St. Andrew Place, for Senior Citizens over 50. There are many who need visiting or shopping, so life is never dull.

Ward, Charles Crosby

by Irene Shaw

One of the colorful characters living in the Vegreville - Lavoy area in the early days was Charles Crosby Ward, who came here in 1905. A tall gangling Irishman, slightly stooped; a rather shy and gentle person with a deceptively solemn mien. His

quiet wit and drollery made conversation with him a delight.

Something of a mystery man, he was quite reticent about his background. From chance information it was understood that he was a nephew of the Third Earl of Dudley but he seemed anxious to play down any suggestion of his connection with the aristocracy. Though he was obviously well-educated and well-read, nothing in his gentlemanly education had prepared him to cope with the rigors of pioneer life; how to handle a team of oxen, break prairie sod and grow a crop. He couldn't bring himself to wield a bull whip but he pushed and coaxed and cajoled the stubborn, lumbering animals and sometimes they even plowed a straight furrow.

His two-room log shack where the ceiling was barely high enough to accommodate his six-foot stature, was clean but conveniently disorderly with everything within easy reach.

Bookshelves filled one wall and glaring from the top of them was a stuffed lynx with glittering glass eyes. An expert taxidermist had poised it as if about to spring and many a casual visitor was seen to blanch and make a quick turn toward the door. Charlie's timing was perfect — he always waited until the visitor had his hand on the latch before he spoke to reassure him.

He appeared to keep up an endless supply of



Charlie Ward plowing, about 1907.



Charlie Ward's homestead, 1906.

white shirts for he was seldom seen wearing any other type. His tweed jacket was just shabby enough to look comfortably tweedy, with corduroys and high boots to complete the outfit.

He was a welcome visitor in many farm houses where he would occasionally drop in. He loved music and sometimes brought his Edison phonograph along to share his records with the family. If the home boasted a parlour organ or piano, he would sit down and, sitting well back from the keyboard, he would lean over and with long, strong fingers roaming over the keys, he would soon begin to sing in a booming baritone — “Father O’Flynn”, “The Mountains of Mourne”, and tender Irish ballads that charmed his host and hostess. Though liquor was not a problem with him, a story was told once, when he reluctantly agreed to act as Santa Claus at a Sunday School concert, he bolstered his courage for the ordeal with enough “Christmas cheer” to overcome his inhibitions. The result was the jolliest Old Saint Nick that ever graced a Christmas concert. His “Ho-ho-ho’s” rang out with such abandon that soon the big boys in the back rows were “ho-ho-ho-ing” with him and hilarity prevailed for a time.

About 1920 he moved to Duncan on Vancouver Island where he became a familiar figure in that leisurely environment, in the same clean but casual clothes topped by a disreputable-looking old tweed hat adorned with a dozen or so trout flies. There he spent his remaining years happily gardening and fishing.

Another aristocratic family in Highlow area were the Dunseaths who came from Scotland to homestead NE 19-52-13. Lady Dunseath, a well-educated woman, used to give “readings” at the Highlow Christmas Concerts. Her son Eddie lived here for some time; his whereabouts are unknown today.

Ward, Charles Crosby by Lawrence McAreavy

Charles C. Ward was born in Ireland in 1868 of a wealthy family. They owned an estate and castle. (Castle Ward). As a young man he was persuaded to seek his fortunes elsewhere and became as was known a “remittance man”.

His first stop was in Spain, where he attended a University and after a short stay, his ambitions turned to America and he got employment on a Texas ranch where he was going to become a cowboy. After a short time there he travelled north to Montana and got a job on another ranch there.

At about the turn of the century, he heard of the Canadian Government giving away 160 acres of homestead land for \$10.00. He arrived in the Vegreville district around 1905-06, and found that most of the homestead land was taken up.

He did contact a homesteader by the name of Mr. Reid that had a few buildings up and was ready to sell out. His place was a half mile east of the Highlow School and Charlie bought the place.

It was then my father met Charlie Ward and they



Charlie Ward's homestead house, 1906.



Charles Crosby Ward on shoulders of Charles W. Brinton at Ward's "cabin" northeast of Highlow School, 1914.

became great friends. With his monthly allowance, he was able to have up-to-date machinery and good livestock, although his farming ability was somewhat limited, but with my father's and neighbor's help and advice, he managed to overcome hardships that were so prevalent in those pioneer days.

Mr. Ward, a bachelor, was 6 ft — 4 in. tall and always a jovial man, and had a temperament that enabled him to make friends and keep them.

He continued to farm until around 1920 and sold out and moved to Duncan, B.C. to retirement.

He died at Duncan and was buried at Quamicham Cemetery at Duncan, Oct. 21, 1922, at the age of 54 years young.

Warren, Robert Sr.

Robert Warren was born in 1883 in Ontario, at Iroquois, a lovely town in the Ottawa Valley. At the age of twenty-two he heeded the call to "go West young man", and made his way to the city where the West began, Winnipeg. Here he went to work at the packing plant operated by Swift Canadian Company, and got his grounding in the meat business. At the age of twenty-five he married Esther Croshaw of Winnipeg, and the young couple moved to Brandon, where Bob went to work in a meat market.

However, he was soon dissatisfied with having come to Manitoba, so he brought his wife and son to

Vegreville in 1909, where he found employment in a meat market operated by Tom Casson. He continued working there until he and a friend Tom Bowles, decided to try homesteading near Spedden. They filed on homesteads that joined each other. That was in 1912. In 1914 the first World War broke out and Tom Bowles, being a good, loyal, English chap, enlisted and went to fight for his country. Two years later Bob Warren tired of living on a homestead so far from civilization, for the nearest railroad was through Vegreville, some sixty miles south, and Vegreville was the supply centre. He came back to Vegreville again to work once more for Tom Casson. When the war ended in 1918 Tom Bowles came back from England, and the two old friends opened a meat market known as the Pioneer Meat Market. They worked as partners until 1923, when the 'moving bug' bit Bob Warren again and he moved his family, (by now there were seven children), to the homestead near Spedden once more.

Those were lean years on the homestead. Living came largely from wild game, fish, wild fruits and a large garden. For nine years the family worked hard to make a living on a small farm. Finally, in 1932, the homestead was sold and the whole family, (by now there were ten children), came back to Vegreville and opened Warren's Meat Market. Later this became Warren's Quick Freeze, one of the first locker plants in Alberta.

However, Bob Warren retired in 1942. The family ran the Locker Plant. It was sold in 1961. The era of the Warrens and their work with meats in Vegreville had come to an end.

So, apart from thirteen years spent on the homestead, he lived from 1909 until his death in 1965 in Vegreville. This was a total of forty-three years. The last five years were lonely ones, because Esther Warren had died in 1960, the Locker Plant had been disposed of, and the family had moved to other towns and cities in the West. Robert Warren, through his work with meats for forty-three years, had made his unique contribution to Vegreville.

Today there are two tombstones in the Vegreville Cemetery. One is a small headstone to mark the grave of George Croshaw, who was Mrs. Warren's father. He had spent his last years with his daughter at Vegreville. The other tombstone marks the grave of Esther Iris Warren and her husband, Robert.

George, the oldest son, sold the Locker Plant in 1961 and moved to B.C., where he lived in several towns before settling in Courtenay with his wife, Eleanor Downey. They are retired there. Eleanor came from Willingdon.

Kenneth, the second son, lives with his wife,

Irene, in the Senior Citizens' Lodge at Lacombe. Ellen, his first wife, died at Lacombe.

Clyde lives on Vancouver Island at Nanaimo, B.C. His wife, Margaret, is not in good health, so they have retired there.

Robert (Junior), after spending some twenty years in the meat business and another twenty-five years in the ministry of the United Church of Canada, has retired to Pelican Point, where he and his wife Gwen, (formerly Gwen Cowell from Minburn), live quietly. Pelican Point is a small summer resort on the northwest shore of Buffalo Lake, and is about ten miles from Bashaw.

Newton operated a meat market at Elk Point for almost twenty-five years. His wife, Anna Parsons, is a former high school teacher from Vegreville. Newton also had a store and a locker plant. He has now sold his holdings and is retired at Elk Point.

Lela, the oldest daughter, married Bernard Leland and they farmed at Minburn before retiring to Vernon, British Columbia.

Everett, the youngest son, lives and works in Edmonton. Like others of the family, he called Vegreville home while he was growing up.

Lillian is married to Bill Hohn, son of another pioneer Vegreville family. Bill works at Edmonton Motors.

Laurine married Ted Redmond who works in the oil industry in Calgary. They have lived there for many years now.

So the whole family are westerners. They are scattered throughout the West, it is true, but are westerners all. One of the granddaughters of Robert Warren was recently heard to remark that "this must be some sort of a record: There are ten children in the family; they are all married, all are living, all are healthy, and all are old!"

Yes, at the time this is written, there are over fifty grandchildren, about 35 great-grandchildren, and a number of great-great-grandchildren. "Pop" Warren, who never lost his sense of humor, looked at the fifty-five family members gathered together to celebrate his golden wedding in 1955, shook his head in disbelief and said: "If I had any idea what I was starting in 1905, I'm sure I would have lost my nerve before I even started."

Watt, Tom **by Margaret Watt**

Tom Watt was but a lad when he left his native town of Mitchell, Ontario. He travelled West in 1885 with General Middleton's army.

His first homestead was at Indian Head, Saskatchewan, where the Dominion Agriculture School is now located. He received five hundred

dollars for his quarter-section of land and with that wealth he continued his travels Westward.

When Tom Watt reached Edmonton he changed the direction of his travels and headed north to Alaska to become a part of the great Gold Rush.

In 1889 he returned to Edmonton and journeyed eastward until he found what he had been searching for. Approximately 70 miles east of Edmonton, near a beautiful little lake, he came upon acres and acres of farmland and ranchland, as yet unclaimed and uninhabited. The homestead that he established there is still considered home to the entire family.

Tom Watt and Mr. Cinnamon were the first settlers in that area. When more settlers moved in, the district became known as Wattsford and the beautiful little lake is still known as Watt Lake.

In 1908 or 1909 Tom Watt promoted the building of a school, and it was named Wattsford School. The need for this became evident as the Wattsford district became settled. The early settlers in the immediate district included the Taylors, Simpsons, Browns, Prices, Smiths, Youngs, Poitras, Richardsons and Possers. Willson C. Gillis, one of the original settlers in the area, had travelled West with the Royal Northwest Mounted Police, and Milton McLeod was one of the first teachers in the district.

The area in and around Wattsford was certainly multicultural. As well as those settlers already mentioned, to the south there was the French community consisting of the Noe Theroux, Emery Theroux, Vennes and Berlingettes. To the north were the settlers from central Europe.

On October 30, 1899 Tom Watt's son Robert (Bob) was born. Robert spent his elementary school years at Wattsford School, and then he attended Vegreville High School.

In 1916, during World War I, Robert Watt enlisted in the army and went overseas. Upon returning from the war he joined his father on the ranch at Wattsford.

Robert carried on ranching after his father's death in 1925. He became a mixed farmer, raising both livestock and grain until his retirement in 1964.

In 1916 Robert married Maggie McPherson, a young girl from Edmonton who, in 1923, went out to teach at Wattsford School. Maggie continued to teach in the area for a number of years.

Robert and Maggie Watt had three children who were all born in the old R.M.B. Hospital in Vegreville. Dr. Reid was the doctor for the R.M.B. and Miss McPherson the matron at the time.

Even after retirement Robert and Maggie Watt continued to live at the farm until Robert's death June 13, 1969. The homestead that Tom Watt settled in 1889, and that Robert Watt expanded and developed, is still operated by the Watt family.

Weder, Robert and Genevieve (Ziegler)

I, Genevieve, oldest daughter of John and Irene Ziegler, grew up and attended school in the Park Grove District. I later married Robert Weder of Innisfree in January 1953. We have resided and farmed since then on our farm south of Innisfree. During the summer of 1953 we experienced a very severe hail and rainstorm which totally destroyed a very promising crop, gardens and stripped trees of their leaves. This was a storm to be long remembered.

We raised a family of four children, three daughters and one son: Judy (Mrs. Ron Konieczny) lives in Hay River, N.W.T.; Kenneth who works and lives in Vegreville; Catherine resides in Vermilion and Audrey who lives at home and is completing her last year of High School. We also have two grandchildren, Lori Ann and Timothy — Judy's children.

Local community affairs have kept us busy over the years; as well I am church organist in the Innisfree United Church and Robert serves on the Board of Stewards. I have also been a 4-H Clothing Club leader which I found most rewarding. Robert has been an active member of the Innisfree Agriculture Society and Curling Club, as well as various other sports.

Weetman, Guy by Grace Hubbard

My father, Walter Guy, was born near Coventry, Warwickshire, England, the youngest child of Richard and Sarah Ellen (Coley) Weetman. After the death of his parents he apprenticed for the drapery trade. When he completed his course he left his family of four sisters and one brother and emigrated to Canada. He arrived in Canada about 1905 and worked on farms near Brandon, Douglas and Souris, Manitoba. Not having any farm experience he found farm work quite a task. Father came to Alberta in the fall of 1911 where he worked on a threshing crew as



Back row (l. to r.) — George Campbell, Guy Weetman with Vera, Lydia Weetman. Front row (l. to r.) — Dick, Ralph, and Grace. 1921.



Birthday Party, November 1, 1960. George Campbell and Guy Weetman, 81 years and 80 years old.

timekeeper for Samuel Campbell. It was here he met a young widow, Lydia Jane (Campbell) Shultz, with a young son. Mother and father were married in 1913. Dad worked at Elk Island Park until the spring of 1917 when he joined the Canadian Army. He served in France for two years. Mother's parents were of pioneer folk. They came from Ontario in 1900 and settled at Lamont.

While Dad was overseas, Mother moved to Lavoy with three small children. Mother kept house for her brother, George Campbell. After the war Dad returned to work at Elk Island Park for a year. He then took up farming, having bought 240 acres of section 25-52-13 through the Soldiers' Settlement Board.

There were four boys and four girls in the Weetman family.

Ralph, the eldest went into farming after serving overseas from March 1940 to July 1945.

Dick joined the Canadian Forces in 1942, only to be discharged a year later due to a heart condition.



Lydia Weetman with Sarah Jane, 1923.



Ralph Weetman and Wilfred Raper. Somewhere in England, 1939-45.

He now lives in Edmonton working as a mechanic for MacCosham.

Grace married Floyd Hubbard and has continued to live in the Lavoy district.

Vera married Wilfred Raper. Wilfred served overseas and was seriously wounded, passing away several years later. Vera continues to live in the district.

Sadie, after completing school, joined the W.A.C. After her discharge she married Robert Ratray. Widowed, she now lives in Vegreville.

Gordon also at a very young age joined the Canadian forces, taking his training in Eastern Canada. At the end of the war, he married and now lives in London, Ontario.

Cecil remained at home taking over the farm upon Dad's retirement.

Edra passed away at the age of 15 from Leukemia. Mother passed away in 1952 just before her 66th birthday.

Dad, better known as "Gramps", passed away at the age of 86 years and 6 months in 1967.

Werenka, Adam

as told by Adam Werenka to M. L. English (Nov. 11, 1978)

Adam Werenka came to Canada in 1914 at the age of fourteen with his parents Wasyl and Marafta Werenka and four other children, all younger. Adam was born in 1899. They came from Bukovina, Austria, County Kitzman. They disembarked at New York, March 7, 1914, and came by train to Alberta. They settled north of Two Hills in the Luzan district, near the Luzan Greek Orthodox church.

Their nearest post office was Duvernay, but all their supplies were obtained from Vegreville. Wasyl Werenka had a general store and also peddled from farm to farm. The Werenka general store opened in 1916, closed some years later, but started again in 1922 and carried on until 1939. Mr. Werenka obtained all products for his business from Vegreville. He also traded for hides and grain, and, of course, money when it was available. The children helped with the farm work. Six more children were born to Wasyl and Marafta; one, a twin, died.

Wasyl Werenka died in 1943, aged 68; Marafta died in 1953 and is buried at Luzan. Wasyl was not, however, buried near Martha, but at Edmonton.

Adam Werenka kept busy all these years. At the age of sixteen, in 1916 he hauled 1000 bushels of grain to Vegreville with horses.

Adam mentioned how hard the times were, and many lost their land. The sheriff would throw anyone off the land if too much was owed. He could not take the last four horses as they were needed to keep going.

Wasyl Werenka was very kind and backed several notes and in at least two instances had to pay them for the unfortunate debtor.

Adam mentions Fred Shoff's store, going on to say that it was a general store, a trading post, trading supplies for hides and skins.

Adam married Nellie Kott in 1936. He had been in Vegreville since 1927 working as a mechanic, bodyman and welder. In 1939 they moved to the old Werenka farm, and raised seven children. All are now married and have families of their own. Adam and his wife are still on the farm at Luzan.

Harry Kott, father of Adam Werenka's wife, Nellie, lived in the Lanuke district south of Two Hills and traded at Vegreville. His name was Hryhory Kotovich, shortened to Kott, to avoid confusion with mail. Hryhory was translated to Harry, though many use the name Gregory.

Harry married Nastia Kisilevich, when he was nineteen and she was seventeen. They had seven children, and Nastia died in 1918. Harry remarried in

1919 to Annie Strychune. They had eight more children. They moved to Franchere, near Glendon.

Werezuk, Samuel and Domca (Dora)

Werezuk Family Ramblings

by Mary Arthur (Werezuk)

My father Samuel Werezuk was born in Chernivitsi in the province of Bukowina, Ukraine, on February 18, 1897, to Eli and Eodochia (Hudema) Verezub. He had two brothers and one sister, all of whom have since passed away in their native homeland.

In 1913, at the age of sixteen, he left his family to go to Canada, not to return until 55 years later for a short visit with surviving relatives.

After a trying twelve-day voyage by sea, accompanied by his Aunt Katrin (his mother's sister) and her husband Artimon Lodba, they travelled by rail to Winnipeg and then to Vegreville. They were warmly greeted by another of his mother's sisters, Sophrina, and her husband Steve Rusnak.

Dad lived and worked for the Rusnak's that first year in Canada and recalls getting his first job in Vegreville unloading 33 tons of coal at 10¢ per ton! He was so grateful to get the job and eager to please that he worked hard all day and managed to unload it all within the day to earn \$3.30 and blistered his hands quite badly.

The next job he tried was digging sewer trenches at 15¢ per hour. But this job only lasted two weeks because he was too young for such hard work. The deeper the trenches were dug the farther he had to throw the dirt which proved to be too difficult and he was fired.

The first winter Dad worked for Mr. Rusnak at his livery barn in Vegreville for his room and board. His lodging was the office in the barn. Often there would be eighteen teams of horses to tend to, which represented a great deal of work cleaning the barns, feeding, watering and hitching the teams.

When World War I broke out, he had difficulty finding work because he was not a citizen of Canada and he, along with many of his countrymen, was considered alien. (Canada was at war with Austro-Hungary Ukraine). Therefore, many thousands were sent to concentration camps in B.C.

Mr. Rusnak was a friend of the Justice of the Peace and gave my Dad a good recommendation. The J.P. was impressed and arranged a pass for Dad. With this pass he was free to work wherever he wished but on the condition that he would report every month at a J.P.'s office. This process had to be carried on throughout the war years. Dad was only too happy to comply and said he would sooner have worked for nothing than to be sent to the camp.



Samuel and Dora Werezuk and family. Taken on their 45th anniversary May 29, 1966. Back row (l. to r.) — Paul, Victoria, Anne, William, Mary, Peter. Sitting (l. to r.) — Eristine, Dora, Sam, Saydie.

Interestingly, it was during this first registration session that Dad's surname was changed from Verezub to Werezuk. The J.P. said it sounded more Ukrainian and that is why Dad consented to the change.

That next year he worked at Mundare on his Uncle Bill Hudema's farm, receiving \$150 in wages for the year's work. Most of this was spent on clothing, before reporting to his new 20¢-an-hour job with the railroad at View Point. He and three other workers lived at the station. The foreman and his wife also lived there and were very kind to them, providing many free meals to the three workers.

From 1914 to 1920 he moved from job to job on the railroad and worked at Donalda, Big Valley and Meeting Creek. Once he narrowly escaped death in a scooter accident as it flew off the tracks and went down a steep ravine. By now he was earning 30¢ an hour which was twice the amount that the gang-crews were earning.

At Donalda, Mr. McFadyen, a fine Scottish supervisor who nicknamed Dad "Red", gave him a foreman's position which paid 50¢ an hour. Sometimes he worked eighteen to twenty hours in a day.



Mr. Jack Corrie constructing road near Werezuk farm, 1924.

One winter during slack season at Big Valley, he accepted a contract to drive spikes on the construction of railroad tracks at Fort McMurray at \$40.00 a mile. That was considered good pay but working conditions were terrible, the sweat off his back froze on his shirt as he worked.

While stationed at Big Valley, he started playing cards with the men at the station for recreation. At first they gambled for matchsticks which were cashed in for a penny a piece, then for a dime and progressively for higher stakes.

One night he was involved in a game with a local doctor who enjoyed drinking and playing. He kept urging Dad to play saying, "What you got? Put 'em up!" Dad complied and being lucky he kept winning. Finally in his frustration the Doc said, "Red, I'm a Doctor, you're only a section-man. You're going to lose your head!" Dad replied in his not too fluent English, "Never mind . . . my money as good as yours!" Dad remembers his luck held and he won \$800. Leaving the stunned doctor a five-dollar bill on the table and pocketing his loot, he left for the night.

By 1920 he had saved \$7,000. Mrs. Rusnak who was always working towards Dad's best interests became concerned about his gambling and that he might easily lose his savings. She urged him to buy a farm, settle down and get married. Dad thought it over and decided to take her good advice. So in the early spring of 1921 he purchased his first quarter of Hudson's Bay land N.E. 33-52-14 for \$5,000 which had been previously rented by Mr. Charlie Hohn. There were forty broken acres on it as well as an old two-storey house, two old barns and a well. A neighbor, Jacob Hohn, was a very kind gentleman and helped teach Dad how to farm and get started. Dad bought four strong work horses from Mr. Clem Duke, another neighbor, and other equipment and he was in business and in a position to provide a home for a wife.

My Mother and Dad were married on May 29th, 1921. Mother was the daughter of Filimon and Marcia Fedoruk who were living on a homestead in the Shepenitz district north of Vegreville. Mother was only sixteen when she was married. They moved into the old house on the farm and it was here that the first six of us children were born. Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Hohn continued to be kind helpful neighbors to my parents. Mrs. Hohn was like a mother to my mother. She even mid-wifed Victoria's and my birth at home.

My eldest sister Victoria (Vicky) was born May 26, 1922, and I was born January 23, 1924. When sister Anne was expected, Mrs. Hohn decided Mother should get with the times and suggested that she have her baby in a hospital. Anne was born in the

Vegreville hospital December 31, 1926 . . . almost a New Year's Baby!

Dad and Mom always worked hard and diligently and were thrifty and resourceful. There were good and bad years on the farm. The worst years were when the crops were hailed out, but they managed and slowly improved their lot.

In 1926 they bought their second quarter of land on the same section N.W. 33-52-14 and in 1930 the S.W. 33-52-14 for \$2,000. This was a bargain because at that time Dad got a chance to get the mineral rights on all his land titles by paying back taxes on the mineral rights. This he did and presently he is enjoying royalty payments on a gas well. However, he ponders as he reflects into the past and compares it with the present. "Just think . . . the value of land has risen to 50 times the purchase price and many gas wells are producing up to \$6,000 to \$8,000 revenue for the Gas Companies per day! That's progress!"

They also have memories of the times when people from Two Hills, Kaleland and Hairy Hill travelled by team to market their grain in Vegreville and often stopped at our farm to stay overnight. They knew that

Fedoruk's daughter lived only five miles N.E. of town and that they would be welcome. The hospitality in those days was warm and generous. The water at the Rusnak livery stable became salty for a time and that caused some extra teams to call and they would have as many as ten in a single day. In 1929 times were hard and people couldn't afford lodging and meals. Mother fed them even if we had to do with less. I can still remember many Indian transients that called also. They found that Mom grew a huge garden, had lots of eggs, milk, cream and cheese and that she was very kind and generous.

What fond memories we all have of good neighbors. Loburs, Hohns, Bradshaws, Carters, Gafkas, Severyns, Aronitzes, Zylentos, Steinbachs and Mis-kiws, to mention a few. There are so many stories that could be told about the good 'ole Brush Hill district.

School days are most vivid to my mind . . . of having to go to school in Vegreville for my first grade and be amongst total strangers who were speaking a language I could not understand. It was a terrifying experience! But we learned the language and life was good for us kids. School became very important to us. The public library opened a whole new world to me and I made frequent visits there as I relished that new adventurous world of reading.

The three-mile ride or walk to school brought adventures galore as we shared those trips with the neighbor kids. Our one-horse buggy or unique converted sawed-off "Ford Cutter" was filled to the seams with the Jake Hohn kids and others. The Hohns were like family to us Werezuks. We shared summer holidays dutifully tending both families' cow herds on the road allowances and amused ourselves in all sorts of ways: eating sunflower seeds, racing our old horse "King" and swatting those pesky mosquitoes. I wonder if they still remember the Ukrainian words we used on those cows when it was time to sort them out at home-time?

But I must get the rest of the family into this history. My sister Eristine (Ernie) was born October 15, 1929. Dad bought his first car the following spring. It wasn't too good because it was an old second-hand Ford 1912 but to us it was something special. Now the trip to grandmother's farm became shorter but also much more frightening when we came to that big mountainous hill that was known as "Bob Taylor's Hill" (we kids called it Bob Tail's Hill). Vicky and I would help that car reach the top of the hill by pushing on the back of the front seat with all our might. We were sure if we didn't, it would certainly roll back downwards to the bottom of the ravine!

I have such rich memories of my grandfather and grandmother living on their homestead home. My



The Werezuk children — Mary and Victoria holding twins Peter and Paul. Anne and Eristine look on, 1932.

cousins, lots and lots of cousins, aunts and uncles would all congregate there for many festive holidays. We had such wonderful times playing, singing, dancing and feasting. Grandfather was the life of the party and grandmother had a beautiful sweet singing voice. Why, they even had a grand piano which nobody could play too well but tried! He had bought it at some auction sale in hopes that someone would learn to play it. Eventually many of his grandchildren did.

On May 31, 1932, good fortune befell my parents as Mother gave birth to my twin brothers, Peter and Paul. They were welcomed into the family of four girls.

In 1934 Dad bought a new Ford car which enabled the folks to venture on their first vacation to Banff.

Sister Saydie (Dee) was born May 15, 1936. That was the year they got hailed out and the year the new house was built.

Victoria was united in marriage at the age of sixteen November 17, 1938, to Peter J. Chilibecki, a farmer in the Warwick district. They raised six children: John, Joe, Janet, Jean, Jerry and Joyce.

I graduated from Grade eight at Brush Hill in June, 1939, and, in keeping with the trend of the time, my parents considered my schooling was complete. I wanted to continue my education and become a teacher but the possibility seemed remote.

Mr. Hosking, my teacher at Brush Hill, knew of my wishes and spoke to Dad on my behalf. I have always been grateful to him for his concern and to my parents for their willingness to accept the idea of further education and to assume the responsibility of financing my education at Vegreville High School and University of Alberta to obtain a teaching certificate.

From this time on, education received a high priority. My sisters Ernie and Dee also received their teaching certificates from the University of Alberta. Peter took a two-year course at the Vermilion School of Agriculture and Paul and William completed their Grade twelve.



Peter and Paul Werezuk, 1935. Note the big pile of split wood.

On November 14, 1942, my youngest brother William (Will) was born to complete a family of eight. Another brother, Jerry, was born November 16, 1943, and died at birth in the Vegreville hospital.

Life became easier for the people of the district in the forties as they acquired more land, better homes, modern conveniences and new farming equipment such as combines.

I was married to Alvin (Bill) Arthur October 25, 1948. Bill and I have farmed and ranched on his father's homeplace twenty miles south of Vermilion in the Auburndale district since our marriage. I have taught school in this and surrounding areas for twelve years. We have two daughters and two sons: Bonnie, Wendy, Layne and Lee.

In the spring of 1949 my mother suffered a severe stroke which left her right side paralyzed for almost a year. It was during this time that Anne, Saydie and Willie were called upon to take over the responsibilities of caring for Mother, preparing meals and all the other housekeeping duties. Mother's great faith and determination have enabled her to nearly overcome her handicap. She was soon able to spend many hours at her hobby of crocheting, knitting, weaving and embroidering. Throughout the years she has created hundreds of beautiful intricate arti-



Mary Werezuk helps mother thread grandfather's homemade loom. It's a real brain-teaser. Note — one of Maricia Fedoruk's (grandmother's) wall murals in background. About 1940.

cles which she has generously donated as gifts to her family, friends and relatives.

Sister Anne, a devoted daughter, continues to live at home helping and caring for Mother and Father.

Eristine was married to Bert Duncan from the Buffalo Coulee district south of Vermilion on August 19, 1955. They live on their farm and Bert is manager of the Vermilion Livestock Co-operative Agri-Mart. Ernie taught school for several years at Buffalo Coulee and Vermilion. She owns and operates her own business, "The Shoe Shack" in Vermilion. They have a son and a daughter: Terry and Tammy.

Peter married Pearl Fedorak from Willingdon June 16, 1956. They have been farming on the original Chmilar place in the Brush Hill district since their marriage. Peter operates a trucking business in conjunction with his farming and has a semi-trailer unit. They have two daughters: Nina and Nita.

Paul married Anne Kavich from Innisfree November 16, 1957. They reside on their farm just a mile east of the homeplace on S.W. 2-52-14. Paul and his sons also farm Dad's land. Paul is known as a Jack-of-all-trades who has inherited an affinity for mechanical genius like his grandfather and Uncle Fedoruk. He is appreciated by his neighbors for his generous help whenever any machinery or engine needs repairs. They have three sons and two daughters: Ida, Daniel, Edna, Samuel and Rodney.

Saydie married a Vegreville boy, Walter Pardely, son of Mr. and Mrs. Vlad Pardely, August 7, 1960. He managed the family plumbing business after his father's death from 1958 to 1968 and then he and his family moved to Edmonton to work independently in his vocation. In 1975 they moved to Vermilion where Wally accepted a job with the Government of Alberta and serves as the District Gas Inspector. Dee taught schools at Vegreville, Innisfree, Clandonald and is currently teaching at Mannville in the County of



Maricia and Filimon Fedoruk at Vernon, B.C., 1943.

Minburn. They have three sons and a daughter: Timothy, Cameron, Kirby and Cindy.

William seems to be a confirmed bachelor. He is presently employed as a wedding consultant and a floral designer in Vancouver.

And so the family has grown. Mom and Dad celebrated their 58th wedding anniversary this year in 1979. They have 23 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

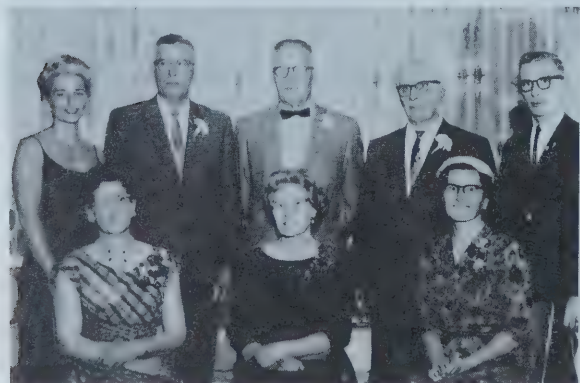
Their oldest daughter Victoria passed away suddenly March 20, 1970, and is sadly missed by all her family.

Peter and Paul live close enough to home to help when required and this enables my parents and Anne to stay in their farm home.

I should mention that Dad has supported the Ukrainian Greek Orthodox Church since his marriage and has been an elder in the church for many years. Also he was a founding Wheat Pool member and has received a lovely fifty-year membership plaque. He continues to take a keen interest in politics and world affairs and enjoys driving his new car to town with Mom to shop and visit with old-timers there.

Mother devotes a lot of time to church activities, creative hobbies, growing exotic houseplants and caring for her flower gardens. Dad in recent years has been her helper in that area, as well as looking after their big vegetable garden. It keeps them both active and well.

We all have a heritage of which we are proud. As I reflect on these pages of the past, I feel humble indeed as I realize and appreciate what our parents endured so we, their children, could experience a better and easier way of life.



Filimon and Maricia Fedoruk's six children at the Fedoruk family reunion, July, 1962. Standing (l. to r.) — Rae Donati (honored soloist), Dave, George, Trifon, Will Werezuk — coordinator of reunion. Sitting (l. to r.) — Jenny, Dora, Frozena.



Filimon and Marician Fedoruk's homestead is visited by grandchildren in July, 1965.



Sam and Dora Werezuk's farmstead, 1979.

What is there that can be more satisfying than to have the love and respect of your family, friends and neighbors and to have lived a rich and fulfilling life? My parents are very thankful that Canada has given them a chance to have achieved these ultimate goals. In closing, they and the family wish to extend our gratitude and sincerest thank-you to the Vegreville Historical Society Committees for collecting all these reports and giving everyone an opportunity to record the history of the Vegreville area.

Westrom Family by Lawton Westrom

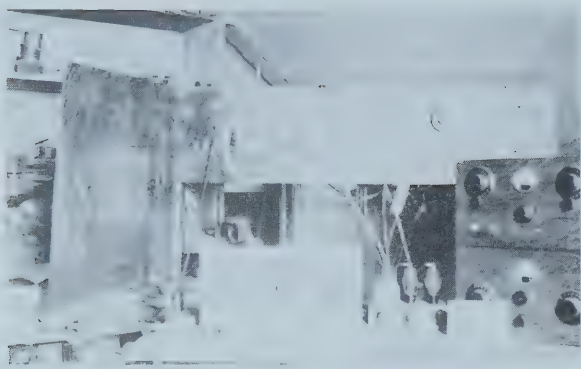
"Lawton Radio Electric and Refrigeration", established Aug. 17, 1937, is the oldest established, still-existing business under the same management in Vegreville.

I, Lawton Westrom, was born April 24, 1915, at home in Veteran, Alberta. My father Frank S. Westrom was from Lake View, Iowa, and my mother Nellie (nee Astley) from Des Moines, Iowa. They were married in Iowa and emigrated to Canada and settled on a homestead three and one-half miles north of Veteran, Alberta.

When I was seven years old my father had a gallstone attack and did not survive the operation. In those days operations were primitive. At the time I had two younger sisters — Lucille, now Mrs. Robert Stewart of Winnipeg, Manitoba, and Beryl, Mrs.



A family gathering at the homestead. Note the thatched roof and white-washed shack in background, 1928. (L. to r.) — (Fedoruk family) — Maricia, Filimon, Martha Keryluke, Dora and Sam, Nick and Frozena Keryluke, Marian (standing), Rae in arms, George and Alice Fedoruk and baby Rose, Eli Fedoruk, Jenny Diachuk, and Mary Fedoruk.



Lawton Westrom's attic room in farm home at Veteran, Alberta. All radio accessories (even parts) are home-built, 1933.

Jacob Pauls of Summerland, B.C. Shortly after my father's death my mother moved with her family of three small children, back to Iowa.

At that time there were several of the Westrom family residing in Canada — Father's brother Westley who had three sons, Billy who was my age and Chester and Westley who were older. They had emigrated in 1908 — two years ahead of my father Frank.

The entire family moved back to the United States between 1935 and 1938, first to Michigan and then to Florida where they all now reside. My uncle Fred Westrom had acquired a homestead near my father's. He didn't stay long and moved back to Iowa. He is now deceased.

My father also had a sister Amelia, who had married Charlie Butterfield in Iowa in 1906. They had emigrated the same time as Uncle Westley and his wife Jennie. This couple had three children: Ray, Fay and Ruth. Cousin Ray is ten years older than I. He married May Akhurst of Veteran. May's father was the hardware store operator in the bad times. Ray took "Normal" School and became a school teacher, moved to Coronation, then to Calgary where he retired from his profession. He and May spend their winters in Phoenix, Arizona, where Thelma and I visited them about two weeks ago, and summers in White Rock, B.C. They have two children, Ted and Betty; Ted resides in Vancouver and Betty, now Mrs. Duane Baily, lives in Cochrane, Alberta.

Cousin Fay married Ellis Vetter and they had one child Phillis. Ellis is now deceased and cousin Fay and Phillis reside in Veteran.

Cousin Ruth became an R.N. and later married Clive Ballad of Rosalind, Alberta. Clive was a school teacher, taught there many years and then in Calgary. They built a house and retired in Okotoks, Alberta.

This puts the family name of Westrom in a rather unique position in Canada. I believe, to the best of my knowledge, that I am the only "Westrom" now

residing in Canada with the exception of my son Marvin.

My mother returned to Canada in 1923 with her three children and later married Sidney Douglas of Veteran. He had been a former family friend her own age, who had been looking after the Westrom farm during her brief return to Iowa.

My mother had three children with Sidney Douglas: Vera became Mrs. Ralph Toffelmire of Veteran, Ralph was killed in an auto accident a few years ago, and Vera now resides in Stettler, Alberta. They had four children. Edith became Mrs. Jim Crane of Coronation where they still reside. They have five children. Wilma became Mrs. Jim Slater. They have one child Elaine, now Mrs. Pete Stubbs of Coronation. Wilma and Jim now reside in Duncan, B.C.

There were fairly good times on the prairies after 1923 up until 1929. By that time the homestead had grown to several sections and there was a tremendous amount of work to do for our family. People of to-day simply cannot understand or realize how hard we all had to work or the hours we had to put in. I had to stay out of school in the early spring and help put in the crop and then return to "catch up" and write exams. The same thing happened in the fall. I would start a month or so late after helping with the harvest. It was quite a rugged experience. I was up early before school to care for the farm stock and then rode horseback, three and one-half miles to school. Later I drove a democrat or sleigh and box, topped with binder canvas and pre-heated rocks for some warmth.

For several summers I worked with a "Road Gang" for \$8.00 per day with four horses; half of that had to be retained for our taxes so all I received was \$4.00 per day. I was required to get up at 4 A.M. to round up and harness the horses so as to be on the job by 7:30 A.M. Life then was a muscle building experience, handling the Johnston Bar of a Fresno for nine hours, riding a two-bottom plow with a five-horse team, walking behind a set of harrows with a six-



George Schoenenberger and Lawton Westrom, leaving farm at Veteran for Vegreville, 1937.



Lawton's first establishment, in Black Motors Garage, 1937.

horse team, riding a binder or seed drill with a four-horse team. These are experiences I'm glad I never missed. Young people to-day would find this kind of work real interesting.

Around 1930 the mechanical age touched our small corner of Alberta. The family acquired a Hart-Parr tractor, a 1927 Chev. car and a 1928 Ford truck with Ruxel axle. I was a fifteen-year-old kid at the time and was fascinated by steam, belts, pulleys and spark plugs. In short, I became the "pest" around local garages and blacksmith shops, but later became a recognized "mechanic".

By 1933, after taking a correspondence course, I had built our family its first radio. It was just a "crystal set" but could receive weak signals from as far away as Los Angeles.

I actually received a medallion from WLW Cincinnati for receiving its signal from so far away at its opening. This "crystal set" was soon replaced by a one- and then a three-tube radio that I also built. This in turn was replaced by a "Ham radio." The first transmitter I built was a "spark transmitter", and then a one-tube and by 1936 a three-tube transmitter and was one of Alberta's first "Radio Hams". My official call sign was VE4OA; "Ve" designates Canada, "4" the fourth radio District of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta, and finally "OA" my personal call letters.

With these experiences and accomplishments, my reputation as an electronic repair man spread and with it an occupation opened up to me. One spring, after having planted five or six hundred acres of grain, I left home in a rebuilt combination 1919 and a 1926 Ford to repair radios and power plants. My sleeping accommodations sometimes were old school houses or haylofts. The service charges ranged from 75¢ to \$1.25, depending on the job.

In 1935 an old school pal, George Schoenberger, who had an old Ford bug we'd both fixed up,

began traveling, at that time, great distances, to do electrical and radio repairs.

In the spring of 1937, after having spent considerable time around the Vermilion area, I travelled to Edmonton to attend the fair. What a time! The fair grounds were covered with wood shavings and it had rained nine inches. To make matters worse I was living in a tent. It was pitched next to a greenhouse which is approximately where the A.M.A. Building now stands on 104 St. on the south side.

During this first visit to Edmonton I stopped in at a wholesale outlet where I had purchased my supplies through the mail. While there I met a traveling salesman for the firm who suggested I settle down. Said he had a customer in the store who had a place for me. That was how I met George Black. He was opening a new garage in Vegreville and thought that a radio shop would be an asset. The catch was that I had to double as mechanic, pumpman, partsman and nightman. The pay was \$50.00 a month for the garage duties and a spot in the front of "Black Motors" for my shop "Lawton Radio and Electric." I was to retain 75% of the Radio repair profits.

My mother and stepfather — and I call him that with the greatest respect — he was better to me than most real fathers — were not overjoyed at the prospect of my leaving, but times were rough. It looked as though the five hundred acres we'd planted in the spring wouldn't pay off. And it would come to pass that less grain would be harvested in the fall than was used to seed in the spring. So with this in mind and their respect for my abilities they gave me their blessings and good wishes.

So I packed up, and August 17, 1937, Lawton Radio and Electric was born in Vegreville. It wasn't easy because times were tough but I made do with what I had, and booked into the "Alberta Hotel" for sixteen dollars a month. An extra fifty cents was charged for each time I used the first floor bathtub. I almost lost my privilege to use the tub, even for fifty cents, after forgetting to wash off the ring. Must have been in a big hurry. Meal tickets were five dollars and lasted about a week if you were careful.

Fortunately, after a few months I was able to find board and room for \$25.00 per month and two dollars and fifty cents for laundry. This left me with twenty-three dollars and fifty cents, which was enough to buy the odd 5¢-bottle of pop.

The radio business in those days was poor — radio just wasn't important to people. The radios were battery-operated and when they went dead, were left to sit. With winter and Christmas and all, everyone wanted their sets fixed. So I was able to supplement my income by 75 to 100 dollars per month and purchased a 1927 Whippet for \$50.00.



Black Motors — Parts Dept., 1939. (L. to r.) — Harry Black, George Black, Sid Edworthy, unknown, Lawton Westrom, Paul Korba, MacPherson.

In the spring of 1938 radio repairs were so slow that I became partsman and car salesman. My salary was now \$60.00 per month and I bought a 1934 Ford panel which I drove until 1949.

In the fall of 1939 I moved my shop to Northern Hardware. This proved to be a good move. Times were changing and I had hundreds of radios to repair. As well, people were getting interested in appliances and electrical wiring.

Here I reflect on an interesting quirk of fate — a year before, I had placed an application with the Dept. of Transport for a job as radio range operator for airports. About one week after I moved to Northern Hardware — I still have a telegram asking me to pick up my ticket at the McDonald Hotel and report for my job in Yellowknife. It is evident that I never picked up that ticket, but if that telegram had arrived ten days sooner, I would have, and Lawton Radio Electric would have closed down!! I never did get to Yellowknife until Jan. '80 when I attended a Lions Winter Convention there!

Then I met Thelma McGowan, the girl I was to fall in love with and later marry. Her father Chester McGowan and mother Pearl lived on a farm south of Hairy Hill. A few years later Mr. McGowan became postmaster of Hairy Hill and moved into town.

Late in October of 1940 Thelma and I were married. We moved into the old brick house on 51 Ave. About a year and a half later we moved into the Bellegay house also on 51 Ave., across the street from where we now live. Rent was quite expensive there, \$27.50 per month, but it was a nice home.

These were really the great days of our lives. July 7, 1943, our son Marvin was born. I had branched into refrigeration and was servicing refrigerators for a radius of forty miles.

In 1946 we purchased a lot for \$200.00 and I contracted Tom Foley to dig the basement for our

house. I believe it was the last basement to be dug in Vegreville by horse with plow and slip. The day of the "bulldozer" had arrived. The Diachuks had purchased one of those new-fangled things and it proved to be somewhat of a success. Tom Foley's horse was put out to pasture.

In April of 1947 we poured the concrete for our foundation. Our carpenters were Bill and his father Ed. Eickmeyer. We moved in before fall.

March 18, 1947, our daughter Connie was born.

In the fall of 1949 "Lawton Radio Electric and Refrigeration" was moved to separate premises on the south-east corner of the "Prince Edward Hotel". The business was moved again the following year to its present location just west of the 5¢ to \$1.00 store. This had been built in 1939 by the Scitzmiers and was Lawyer Crockett's office. The other half of the building was the original Social Credit Bank or "Funny Money Bank". A few years later I purchased the entire building and "Lawton Electric Radio and Refrigeration" expanded.

Thelma took care of the duties of a mother as well as the company books. She was a great help.

On December 21, 1953, Linda was born and September 4, 1954, Bonnie was born. We now had a family of four.

I was an active member of the Alberta Radio Relay League for many years, member of Vegreville Kinsmen Club, President for two years of N.E. Alberta Electrical Association and in November '62 joined the Vegreville Lions Club. I became an active member, going through all the positions and becoming President in 1970-71 and District Governor in 1977-78.

This just about brings the story of the Westrom family and Lawton Electric and Refrigeration up-to-date.

We are very fortunate that we have been able to do quite extensive travelling in North America. During 20 years we did tour many parts of the world and



Lawton's Shop in Northern Hardware, 1940.

camp in every state and province of North America. This was a great experience for our children.

Son Marvin attended University of Alberta and received his doctorate of education and philosophy. He married Norma Zwierschke of Holden. They both taught in Viking for two years. He worked in Toronto for IBM and is now a professor at UBC in Vancouver. Norma has been studying under the Royal Conservatory of Music and has a beautiful voice. They have two children, Nancy Lynn born May 28, 1974, and Sara Anne born May 1, 1979. They are just the greatest grandchildren you ever saw!

Connie attended McTavish Business College after High School and then worked at the University for two years and then for a Real Estate Company in Edmonton. She was married to Wayne Goddard from Vermilion for ten years; they had a son, Ted Goddard, born Aug. 14, 1968. Ted is a wonderful grandson interested in science and space. Connie got interested in pottery and attended the Banff School of Fine Arts for two summers. She taught pottery classes in Vermilion for Lakeland College, then in Edmonton at the Y.W.C.A. For the past two years she and her son Ted have been living in Lavoy with Bob Pike from Calgary. They bought the old Bricker store, built a 100-cubic-foot gas kiln and are producing functional stoneware pottery for Alberta. "Dirt-works" supplies pottery to Edmonton, Calgary and Banff.

Linda has been attending the U. of A. and pursuing a fine arts career. She married Claude Duperron of Vegreville.

Bonnie studied education at the U. of A. and Medicine Hat. In 1976 she married Bob Napora from Innisfree — Bob is a great guy and an Industrial Arts School teacher in Edmonton. Bonnie taught ceramics for two years in Edmonton. Now residing in Morinville, they have a brand new grandson for us as of October 5, 1979, and we call him "Big Ben".



Lawton Westrom family, 1963. (L. to r.) — Marvin, Connie, Linda, Lawton and wife Thelma, Bonnie and "Pixie" — Christmas Day.

Thelma, my wife, was born June 27, 1921, in the old St. Joseph's Hospital. Sister Josephine and Dr. Couillard were her mother's nurse and doctor. She grew up on a farm at Hairy Hill. She stayed with her grandmother, Mrs. Frank Emery, for a few years. The Rev. Don Campbell performed the marriage ceremony in Vegreville at Eddie and Jessie Lank's home (Thelma's aunt and uncle). Thelma became active in the Vegreville Rifle Club and became an expert shot, receiving bronze, silver and gold medals. Her team, Pat Smolyk, Marg Reid and Kay King won the "Arnold" trophy. An ardent curler of 25 years, she skipped an "eight-ender" taking the "Corby" trophy. For the past six years she has been teaching ceramics for the County of Minburn. In her basement she has two electric kilns and hundreds of molds.

I am not sure that I look forward to reaching that so-called "Golden Age" of 65 in the next few weeks, but time will tell and perhaps it is so. Lawton Electric and Refrigeration will continue for a while and I'm quite sure that it will be some time before another business can lay claim to existing in Vegreville under the same management for a longer period.

Wilson, Robert and Jennie

It was in 1917 that the Wilsons arrived in Park Grove and settled on a quarter-section N.E. 14-53-15-W4. They were six: Robert and Jennie Wilson and their children — Gordon 23, Gladys 21, Marion 10, and Eva 8 years old.

A very brief history of the Wilsons: Our father was the fourth child of a family of 12. Their parents had emigrated from Ireland to Ontario, and later to Pope County in Minnesota, where they farmed. Grandfather Wilson was also Postmaster for a while in the town. Known as a great storyteller of Irish myths, and a writer of rhymes, he was known as "The Poet of Pope County." Our dad must have had a fairly good education, in the public schools of the area, as he was a very literate person, read widely, and took a great interest in politics. It was when he was a young man of 23 operating a grain elevator in Glenwood, Minnesota that he met 19-year-old Jennie Elizabeth Semple.

The Semples were originally from Scotland. They were direct descendants of the cruel James Graham, Lord Cloverhouse, who was violently opposed to their strict Covenantor faith, and was probably instrumental in causing their emigration to Ireland. Thomas King Semple and his wife Esther emigrated to Ontario and later moved to Boston, Massachusetts. They had three little girls of whom Jennie was the middle one. Her mother died when Jennie was five years old, and Grandmother Semple

came to bring up her son's little girls. Their religious upbringing was very strict, and in line with the Orthodox Covenantor beliefs.

When Jennie was 15 she took a course in sewing from an expert seamstress in Glenwood, Minnesota where the family had moved soon after her mother's death. This talent was one she used all her life to the advantage of her family and others.

So, these two young people met and were married in 1892. They lived there until 1900 when they decided to emigrate to Canada with their son and daughter: Gordon 7 and Gladys 5 years old.

They arrived in Edmonton by train with a load of settlers' effects, including horses and two or three cattle. They first took a homestead at Riviere Tri Barre, but later moved to Edmonton where they had a few cows and sold milk. Gordon and Gladys delivered milk to customers who lived not far from their home which stood exactly where the Memorial on 101st street now stands.

After this period dad tried farming on locations in Clover Bar; the work was hard trying to raise crops, clear land, and provide proper buildings for stock.

It was in 1907 that dad was told by his doctor that he would have to leave Alberta on account of his health and seek a lower altitude. So the family sold out and left for British Columbia. Marion was one year old at that time.

Several years were spent in British Columbia at first in the Murrayville area where Eva was born in 1908. Dad raised cattle and poultry, and mother made butter. She won seven first prizes one year at the New Westminster Fair.

Our last years in British Columbia were spent on Salu Island where dad had a poultry farm and raised several purebred types. He won many prizes at fairs and also judged some classes at fairs in New Westminster and Victoria.

It was through dad's brother in Edmonton that he eventually obtained the farm at Park Grove. There were no buildings on it, and dad came ahead and built our house in 1916. There were difficult days to follow. Gordon and Gladys helped a great deal, as dad still was in poor health.

We soon became part of the Park Grove community. The old school house was the centre of the social life, and many friendly gatherings took place there including church and Sunday School.

One favorite type of entertainment was the Basket Social, where decorated lunch baskets were auctioned off. In 1918 a special one was put on in aid of the War Effort. Gladys, who was very artistic, made as her basket a Red Cross Army Hospital Tent. It flew the Union Jack, and showed the Red Cross Symbol on its roof. The wounded soldiers were clothespins

with painted faces, bandaged heads, and arms and legs in casts. The nurses were pretty three-inch china dolls, "confiscated from Eva and me". The wounded soldiers lay in rows of cots in the ward, with another clothespin dressed as the doctor in his white coat standing by. Of course an Annex to the hospital contained a delicious lunch. This basket, probably on account of its timely theme, brought a price of \$22.00.

Dad built up a good dairy herd during the ensuing years; one of his cows established a Canadian Production Record, and the butter we sold was an important source of income.

Horticulture was one of Dad's hobbies. He loved experimenting with trees, shrubs, fruits, and vegetables. He was a staunch supporter of the move to get a Government Agricultural Agent appointed for the Vegreville district — the first in Alberta.

After dad died in 1946 Gordon arranged for mother to go to Dawson Creek to be near him and Eva and their families. Although her heart was always back in Park Grove with her friends there, she eventually joined in the activities in Dawson Creek. She had her own little house where she sewed, and she joined in church work too. In one year alone she made 103 articles of clothing for the Red Cross, for which she was awarded a special badge. In time however, her eyesight failed, and she came to live in Lloydminster with the Myers family. At that time we had only two of our family left at home, son Terry and daughter Eva, teen-agers. They were lively and entertaining and I think she was as happy there as one could expect. She lived to be 93, spending her last days in Edmonton in a nursing home.

At present in 1979: Gordon and Maude Wilson live in Victoria, B.C.

Gladys Kemp is in Ottawa, Ontario.

Ken and Marion Myers are in Kelowna, B.C.

Eva and Pat Patrick are in Victoria, B.C.

Among us we have 28 grandchildren.

Wilson, Robert and Jennie

by Eva (Wilson) Patrick

I think perhaps the Wilson parade to the Vegreville fair might be of interest to some folks today. It certainly kept us busy for a few days and especially the first day of the entries.

The day before the fair the pigs, chickens and any cattle we showed had to be bathed. Washing the chickens in the kitchen certainly wasn't a popular event. All dad's animals and chickens were purebred and his Plymouth Barred Rock poultry was his pride and joy.

The day of the fair we were all up at first light

gathering grain for sheaves, shelling some heads, digging vegetables, picking berries, etc.

We set off for the fair with the team and wagon. The wagon box held the pigs and on top of the box were crates holding the chickens. The buggy was tied to the back and it held all the perishables, grain, vegetables, berries, eggs, canning, pickles, baking, butter, flowers, sewing, knitting, quilting, etc. Then we usually had a cow tied to the buggy and me behind on horseback driving her. Well do I remember the morning the cow refused to be led and braced her feet until dad was forced to release her and I had to herd her into the grounds as best I could. That year it was raining and she led me a merry chase through all the bush she could find. We eventually arrived and I really can't remember if the cow won a prize (she'd certainly lost favor with me), but my pony did.

My father was also held in awe because he washed the cows' udders night and morning before he milked them. That may have contributed to the fact that my mother made the best butter in the world. We churned religiously twice a week, turning out between 70 and 80 pounds of butter a week, and because of its fine quality got top prices. I can't understand why we didn't become millionaires!

My father was an ardent member of the U.F.A. and woe betide anyone who wasn't. He was about as Irish as they come. He was also instrumental in obtaining Vegreville's first District Agriculturist, Fred Newcombe, who went on to become a servant in the Alberta Government.

Winter, Marguerite (Ziegler)

Marguerite (Ziegler) Winter was married on November 7, 1951 to Joe Winter and lived in Vermilion for twenty-one years. During that time we had a family of seven, five sons and two daughters — Joe, who lives in Peace River with his wife Gwen, Doug of Vegreville, Maurice of Calgary, Richard of Vermilion, Jamie, Barbara and Jean live with me at Olds. The boys have been very active in hockey, baseball, and football and we have spent a good many hours around these facilities. I was an active member of the O.O.R.P. for many years. During the last five years I took a secretarial course at Olds College and when I completed it I started work in the main office at the College.

Recently I transferred to the Forestry office in Sundre.

Wispinski, Joseph and Barbara **submitted by Lil Wispinski**

Joseph Wispinski was born on January 8, 1869, at Borszcza, Ukraine. He was one of three sons born in



Barbara Wispinski, 1925.

his family. His brother George and step-brother, Fred, all made their way to Canada, but at different times.

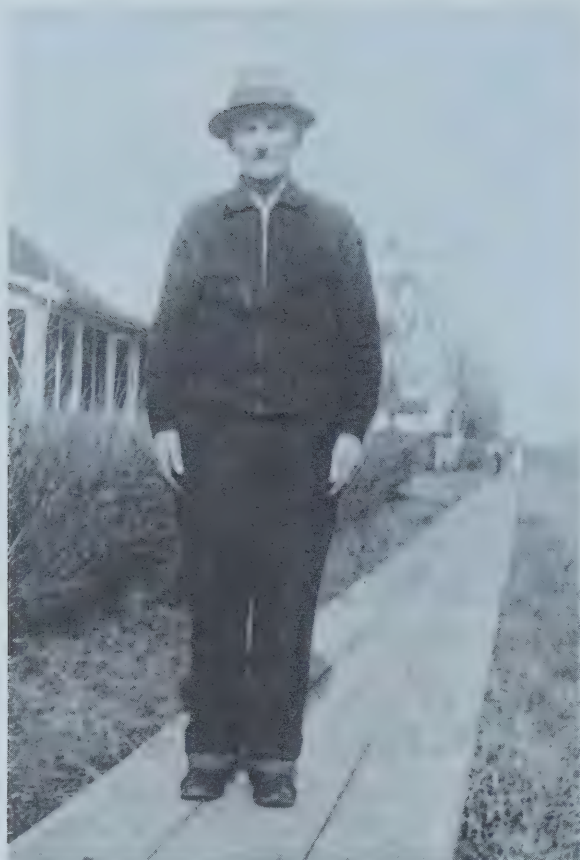
While living in the Ukraine, Joseph met Barbara Stetsko. Her father was a carpenter in the little village Joseph lived in at that time. Barbara, born in 1880, was the second oldest child of Wasyl and Dokia (Gallas) Stetsko.

As time went on, Barbara became the wife of Joseph, and went to live on the small piece of land, where Joseph was farming.

At the age of twenty-eight, Joseph, along with his wife's family, made the decision to go to the new land of Canada. When arrangements had been made, they left their village of Stilkivia, in the district of Borschiw in Galicia, Western Ukraine. They boarded a train and travelled to Hamburg, Germany. Here they met the ship named S. S. Scotia, which was going to take them to the new land, and would also be their home for the next three and one-half weeks. The fare for the trip was \$85.00 per adult and half fare for children under ten years of age.

They landed at the port of Halifax on April 30, 1897. Filled with both excitement and frustration, they viewed the first sights of their new homeland. They brought only the bare necessities with them and now wondered how they would go about planning their future. They knew that they had to approach it and survive day by day.

From Halifax, again boarding a train, they made their way to Stuartburn, Manitoba, where the whole family settled for some time. It was while here that they had to go through the official procedure of being



Joseph Wispinski, 1942.

accepted to stay on the new soil. The government had to assess the new settlers to determine whether they could support themselves and their families. One stipulation that the officials had was that the head of each family had to have a minimum of \$25.00 in his possession.

Once the officials had carefully examined all aspects, and if the requirements were met, the settlers were allowed to establish themselves on the new land.

After the Wispinski family, and their travelling companions, were given their approval to stay, they purchased Red River carts and began their perilous journey west. They had lived in Manitoba for some time, but decided to move further west to Alberta. The trip was filled with many trials and tribulations. Food and shelter had to be produced when and wherever possible. Many of the nights were spent sleeping under the open skies. Wildlife and berries were the main source of food.

A bad experience occurred to Joseph, when he was captured by the Indians, tied up to a tree, and left to die. After three days had passed, some neighbors found him and rescued him. By this time he had almost been eaten alive by mosquitoes.



Children of Joseph and Barbara Wispinski, (Peter is missing), 1969. Back row (l. to r.) — William, Nick, Mike, John, Martin, Larry. Front row (l. to r.) — Liz, Jenny, Lena, and Mary.

Still travelling further west, the caravan arrived at Batoche, (now North Battleford, Saskatchewan) where they were warned that because of the Indian uprising (Riel Rebellion) it would be very unwise to proceed along the route they were taking. Consequently, they headed south and arrived in Alberta via Medicine Hat. They then travelled north, again, until they came to the Beaver Lake district, some forty miles east of Edmonton. The trip from Winnipeg to their destination had taken them two and a half months.

Joseph and Barbara applied for a homestead in the Wostok, Alberta area (N.W. 30, T56, R17, W of 4). Here they built a small log cabin, (21' x 21'), a stable (15' x 18') and hand dug a well for water. Together they began to clear the land. After working for some time, they decided that this particular area was not suitable for them as it had too much water. They left this farm and moved to the Haight, Alberta district. Here Joseph homesteaded S.W. 15, T51, R15 West of 4. Again, they built a small home for themselves, and started clearing the land which had a great amount of bush on it. All the work was done with just a few pieces of machinery that they possessed. Sometimes a neighbor would help out if he was able to. Barbara helped in the field, working right alongside of Joseph.

By now, several children had been born to the family, and, when able, they all helped with the farm chores.

Joseph, besides farming, worked on the railroad. When he was absent, it left Barbara with the management duties on the farm. This included caring for the ducks and geese she raised when grain was available,

caring for about ten to twelve head of cattle, and caring for a growing family of children.

It is recalled how one winter, when provisions for both the family and the cattle were scarce, the latter had to be fed with the hay from the roof of their log house. As the hay was full of soot, the cattle became ill, and most of them died.

The family attended and supported the Borschiw Greek Catholic Church. They took part in all the religious ceremonies such as the blessing of the bread at Easter. Homemade paska was taken to the service where the parish priest would bless it. It then was taken home and enjoyed by the family and neighbors.

The children attended the Togo school, where most of them obtained at least a grade eight education. Due to lack of money, several of the children had to be taken out of school as books and other necessary items could not be afforded.

Social activities included attending dances at nearby villages such as Borschiw, Haight and Moroslow.

Barbara passed away in 1930 at the age of fifty years. Her passing made the situation very difficult for Joseph. Several of the children had married and moved, but during the depression years he was left with small children at home to raise and support. The youngest child, Peter, was six years old when Barbara passed away.

Joseph remained on the farm until 1942, at which time he moved to Edmonton to live with his daughter, Jenny and her husband. It was here that Joseph passed away on June 13, 1946, at seventy-seven years of age.

Joseph and Barbara came to Canada shortly after they were married, the journey being a honeymoon trip. Eleven children were born to them in their adopted land. In order of age they were Lena (Mrs. John Yalowika), John, who married Edna Bugara, Jenny (Mrs. Harry Gylaski), Martin married Kay Elashuk, William married Anne Bohaychuk, Mary (Mrs. Norman Cline), Elizabeth (Mrs. Jack Tomchuk), Nick married Jessie Rawluk, Mike married Olga Tropak, Larry married Jean Ruptash, and the youngest son was Peter.

All the children, except Mike, eventually left the farm and moved to Edmonton. John moved to Drayton Valley where he is presently farming. Mike remained on the farm with his dad and kept the farm going even after Joseph moved to Edmonton.

Wispinski, Mike and Olga

submitted by Lil Wispinski

The story of Mike Wispinski begins on September 30, 1919, the day he was born in a little farm

house at Haight, Alberta, to Joseph and Barbara Wispinski. Joseph and Barbara, daughter of Wasyl and Dokia Stetsko, had come to the Haight district early in the 1900's.

Upon reaching the age of seven, Mike was enrolled in school at the Togo school. School must not have impressed him too much on the first day, as he recalls running away as soon as he found an opportunity to escape. After being reprimanded he returned to school. He continued his education, and in spite of the start on his first day, became a very good student and even enjoyed attending. He finished his grade nine education at the age of thirteen. Lack of money for the purchase of school books and other materials forced Mike to end his schooling at this point. He continued farming with his father from then on.

Social activities included sports, such as the ever-common and popular baseball games. Tournaments and games were held with surrounding schools. Mike was usually to be found either on the pitcher's mound or behind the catcher's mitt.

Dances at Borschiw, Haight and Myroslaw, were major attractions on the weekends. The affairs were well attended by most community members and visiting patrons. Another attraction were the community picnics which were usually held on Suchy's farm. It was at one of these picnics that Mike noticed a pretty, dark-haired girl. Being "bashful" he "slowly" made his way to where she was standing to talk to her. Accidently he burnt her with his cigarette. Some introduction!! He must have been forgiven, though, as some time later the young miss, Olga Tropak, became Mrs. Mike Wispinski.

Olga was the daughter of John and Anna Tropak of the Inland district. She was born on March 21, 1926. Olga attended the Leachville school where she



Mike and Olga Wispinski and family, 1969. Back row (l. to r.) — Wayne, John, Zane, Jerry, Marlene, Diane. Front row (l. to r.) — Bob, Mike and Olga.

obtained a grade eight education. Some of her classmates were Betty Cole, Olga Farion, and Rosie Korpán. These three girls began school with Olga in grade one and were her classmates right through to grade eight. Miss Velma Caddey was the teacher for grades one to eight at that time.

Olga also participated in ball games and tournaments. Challenges to the other teams such as Haight, Borschiw and Myroslaw were put forth.

With inflation being felt everywhere it is interesting to note that Olga recalls mailing letters at the Inland post office at a time when postage for a letter was three cents.

Mike and Olga were married on July 10, 1942, in Edmonton, Alberta. Mike took his new bride to live on the farm where they became experienced in the farming career. They lived on the farm with Mike's dad, Joseph, until the latter moved to Edmonton.

They continued farming Joseph's land until 1945 when they bought a farm in the Inland area from Mrs. Garwyolok. Mike worked as a mechanic in Holden and Ryley as well as farmed. Olga worked hard, helping with the farm chores, as well as raising a family.

In 1952, they sold the farm and moved to Camrose where Mike was employed as a mechanic and Olga worked for some time at Shirley's Bakery. From there the family moved to Provost, then back to Camrose and then to Edmonton, where Mike and Olga are presently residing.

Seven children blessed the marriage of Mike and Olga. In order of age they are Diane (Mrs. Gary Nelson), Marlene, (Mrs. Noel Bourassa), Jerry married Mary Kabel, Zane married Lillian Ertman, John married Sharon Robertson, and the youngest two, Wayne and Robert, remain single. Mike and Olga have nine grandchildren.

One of the many family get-togethers, which everyone looks forward to, is the annual Christmas meal. Olga spends many, many hours preparing the traditional Ukrainian meal. The whole family, young and old, waits eagerly to enjoy the homemade dishes, such as wheat, borscht, holubsti, etc. This is a tradition that the family will not let die.

Mike and Olga enjoy going for trips in their camper in which they travel from place to place enjoying the surroundings. Mike, being an avid fisherman, always goes prepared to do some fishing. He loves nothing more than to get a good catch of pickarel or trout.

Mike is presently employed as shop manager at Mill View Automotive in Edmonton. Olga is kept busy with her hobbies such as crocheting, baking and ceramics. Their home has become a regular visiting place for their family, friends and relatives.

Withers, William Warren and Lavara by Guy B. Withers

William Warren Withers (Will) and his wife, Lavara, moved from North Dakota to Canada in 1905. They crossed the border March 17, 1905; Will came by railway freight car and Lavara by passenger train as far as Strathcona. There they were met by Lavara's brother John Stonehocker. Then with teams and wagons they moved through mud, etc. to Mr. Mahoney's farm one mile west and one mile north of Old Vegreville. Here they rented an old building and lived there for the winter. Across the road lived Lavara's father, Joseph Stonehocker. During this winter they helped move old Vegreville to where the present Vegreville is. They started looking for a homestead. By this time they were hard to find, but they got one near Lavoy, NE 34-50-13. They waited all winter for snow, so they could move, but it didn't snow that winter. In spring they rented a quarter of land, with livable buildings on it, from Mrs. McKinney and started to move. The grass was tall and there was lots of heavy frost, so they started out at 2 A.M. and the sleighs slid nearly as good as on snow. Before the move was finished their daughter Lillie was born April 14, 1906.

At the homestead their neighbors were Mr. and Mrs. James William Suddaby, Charlie Deby, Mrs. Fahy and her four sons, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Judy and Mr. Covey. First thing they did was build a good three-wire fence all around the homestead quarter, then a frame house 26' x 26' (which is still lived in today, 1979, by Guy and Marguerite Withers, after a few alterations through the years), and a barn, which is gone now. They managed to break a few acres each year and prove up the homestead. The years were hard with very little money. Will worked on the road to pay for the taxes and he raised cattle, horses and chickens. In January, 1910, a son was born, Guy B. Withers. Each year they kept improving on the home and homestead. Then Will's mother and father, War-



Breaking prairie on Gibson farm, about 1906. Ten oxen (five pairs) were pulling the plow. Each succeeding yoke was attached by a chain.

ren and Cecilia, came up from Minnesota to visit. Will had a good team and democrat and they drove around to see the sights. In 1915 they bought a car, a McLaughlin. It was the first car south of Lavoy. They enjoyed driving up and down the prairie trails, but spent quite a bit of time in the mud holes as the roads weren't too good. Lillie had to start school at Viking and boarded with her aunt and uncle, Lidge and Lille Hummel. But by 1915 a government grant was obtained and Aplomb School was built. In 1917 the Withers traded off the old car for a new Chevrolet; it came in the first carload of Chevrolet cars to Vegreville. By this time they were getting a few of the mudholes fixed, so we could ride in a little more comfort. In July, 1918, there was a big frost and that winter the flu epidemic, and 1919 was very dry. Will sold a lot of his cattle. As the years passed more people moved and more fences and buildings went up. Will passed away March 9, 1930, and Guy took over farming. He also began showing stock at local fairs here and further on at Calgary, Edmonton and the Royal Winter Fair. He showed Percheron horses, Angus cattle, Tamworth pigs, and sheep. He did this for many years and took many prizes and ribbons. Later on he also had a herd of registered Jersey cattle and at the present time has a herd of Charolais.

Lillie was married to Bill Winslow October 10, 1936, and moved to Ponoka where they farmed.

Guy was married to Ethel Gibson July 3, 1940. They raised a family of five children, Warren, Norman, Ivy, Jean and Dale.

Guy's mother Lavara passed away September 9, 1956. Ethel passed away October 27, 1968. In 1969 Guy and son Norman went into a farming partnership. In July, 1969, Guy married Marguerite Naundorf, and Nov. 1970, Norman married Carrie Morrison and they have a son, Grant, and a daughter, Marla. Our headquarters is still the old homestead.



Tom Woods built the barn and house in 1927. Leonard Timanson bought the farm in 1944.



Threshing on R. P. Blackburn's farm south of Vegreville in the early 1900's.



Tucks breaking on S.E. 34-50-13 W4, 1917.

Wood, Tom and Rose

by Dr. Lorne G. Wood, M.D., F.R.C.S.(C)

Tom Wood was born in Stratford, Ontario and moved with the family to Kelwood, Manitoba when he was in school. He came to Edmonton with his brother when the Canadian Northern Railway was being built. He and his brother were both carpenters and built many of the stations between Lloydminster and Edson. He met my mother when the railroad went through Mundare. After that they stayed in the building business until 1915 when they moved to Mundare; then to Park Grove in March of 1916.

Mother, Rose, was born in Poland. Her father and mother had a bake shop. Her father broke his back while exercising his trotting horse. Apparently the wheel came off of the racing sulky and he dropped down and was dragged for some distance. He died six months later. His wife, my grandmother, brought her two daughters to the Beaver Lake district in 1889. They came from Calgary to Edmonton by stage and then to where Mundare is now located. She

bought a farm two and a half miles north of the present town of Mundare.

Mother tells a story about driving to Edmonton with Mrs. Bert Jennings. On the way there the horse became lame and they barely got there. They had to ford the North Saskatchewan River at Fort Saskatchewan. Mr. Jennings was working in Edmonton as a brick-layer. After getting a new horse they started back, but had some of the goods soaked fording the river, including a sack of flour and one of sugar. The flour was alright, but most of the sugar dissolved and leaked out of the bag. Apparently times were real tough. The only stores were at Old Vegreville and at Beaver Lake.

Mrs. Wood is still living in the year of 1977 at 94 years of age, with her youngest son, John, in an apartment in Burnaby. She is enjoying reasonably good health.

Tom and Rose Wood had three sons — Frank retired to Vancouver from teaching at the University in Edmonton in 1973. He was in Uganda on loan from the University of Alberta to Mecary University. He was supposed to stay three years, but Idi Amin expelled everybody white and he was there only eighteen months. After coming back he retired on full pension. A year ago, last November, he got a letter asking him if he would go to Malawi in Africa and set up the same deal he did in Uganda. He will be finished there at the end of November, 1977. Frank is connected with agriculture.

I, Lorne, am still practicing medicine in Vancouver at 750 W. Broadway, V5Z 1H8. My wife passed away and our four children are all grown up and away. John is in Montreal, Pete in Ottawa, Elizabeth in Toronto and Eve in Princeton, New Jersey.

John, the youngest, is with my mother in Burnaby.

Worth, Herbert E.

Herbert E. Worth, or “Hub” Worth, as his friends called him, came to Alberta from Ontario during the Klondike Gold Rush, which started about 1898. Sickness prevented him from going all the way to the gold field, therefore he went looking for a homestead. In 1903 he filed on the N.E. ¼ of 26-52-15-W4, and built a shack and a log barn which had a straw roof. This same roof fed cattle in the hard winter of 1919 when there was very little feed in the country and, the cattle liked it!

A few years later his brother, A. M. Worth, and family arrived. A. M. Worth took a homestead on the S.E. ¼ of 36-52-15-W4 and his son, I. D. Worth, filed on the S.W. ¼ of 6-53-14-W4. One of his daughters became the first wife of J. B. Holden,

another became Maurice Thomson’s first wife. This family started one of the first jewellery stores in Vegreville.

Around 1915 “Hub” Worth built a two-storey house on his homestead which is still standing. It was also that year he bought his second farm, the N½ of 13-53-15-W4 which is three and one-half miles straight north of his homestead, in the Park Grove district.

Shortly after the building of his house he married Mrs. Arthur Nicholson and she and her family of four, Arthur, John, William (Bill) and Dorothy came to live on the farm.

The two older boys, Arthur and John, soon learned their way around the country, as every spring the cattle (about sixty head) and sixty-five head of horses were turned loose to roam, and had to be rounded up every fall. Every animal was branded with a TU over a bar brand on its right hip. The cattle were fed at the home farm in winter, while the horses looked after themselves on the north farm feeding on wild buckwheat and pea vines growing so thick in the bush that you could hardly walk through, as well as prairie wool three feet high. There were very few fences in the early days so cattle and horses could roam at will.

In December of 1918 tragedy struck the family — scarlet fever — a dreaded disease in the early days. All four children came down sick. A strict quarantine notice was placed on the gate and no one was allowed in or out of the farm for six weeks. All groceries, mail, medicines, etc., were brought by friends and neighbors and left at the gate. On December 27, Arthur, age seventeen, died. No one, not even his mother, was allowed to attend the burial service.

The following spring oats were planted on some breaking in front, or south, of the house, and when threshed in the fall, yielded one hundred and twenty bushels per acre. The stooks were so close together you could hardly walk between them.

Over the years from 1915 to 1933 about thirty acres a year were brushed and broken up on the north farm. This was a lot of work as most of it was cut by hand with an axe and some was cut with a brush cutter. Then every tree had to be trimmed of its branches and stacked for firewood, which was later hauled home. The trimmings were piled up and burnt. When the snow came they would have a “wood-cutting bee” and saw (with a power-driven saw) the logs into stove-length pieces, requiring the help of six men. Then the pieces of wood had to be split with an axe before they were ready for the cook stove. After all the work of brushing, breaking and root-picking, was it any wonder the men were so proud of the first crop!



Field of oats on H. E. Worth's farm north of Vegreville — 120 bushels to the acre, 1919.

About 1928 a well was dug with a spade by John (who did the digging) and Bill (who pulled the dirt up in a pail). The hole, four feet by four feet, was dug down for forty feet, then they used an auger for sixty



Mrs. H. E. Worth, 1960.

feet, which was turned by hand, before water was struck at one hundred feet. The water from the well was soft and is in use to this day.

After Bill finished his schooling and when his help wasn't required at home, he worked for local farmers for a few years. Then he, like many young men, went looking for a homestead in the Peace River Country. He found his homestead near Debolt.

In 1933 the horses were all rounded up on the north farm, broken for halter and harness, all twenty-five, in about three weeks by John. There was only one horse that couldn't be tamed, and he would bite, kick and strike out at anyone or anything that came near him, so he was shot. When, in their place came a threshing machine, the horses sold for thirty-five dollars each.

The children all went to school in Vegreville which was three and a half miles away. They either walked, or drove a horse in a buggy or cutter, depending on what time of year it was.

It was in 1934 that Mr. Worth died, leaving the farm to his family.

In 1935, John married Gladys Cook and started farming on his own on the north farm. Dorothy married Carswell Gorsline in 1934 and went to live on his farm in the Ryan District. Bill married Verna Armstrong in 1937 and they live on the home farm. Mrs. Worth made her home with Bill for a few years, then moved to town. When the lodges for the senior citizens were built, Mrs. Worth first lived at the Vialta Lodge in Viking, then moved to the Vegreville Homestead where she lived until she died on August 29, 1962, at the age of eighty-eight years.

Wright, John and Family by Mildred (Wright) Bridgeman

My parents, John and Joanna Wright, came to Alberta from Michigan, as immigrants in the year of 1900. They lived in Strathcona until 1904 and then moved by covered wagon to a homestead (N.E. 32-50-14) in the Imperial School District, about twelve miles south of Vegreville. The school was started that year. My two sisters, Stella aged 7 and Lila aged 5, helped make the required number of pupils to open the school.

I was born the same year that Alberta became a province. My brother Percy was 2 years older than I, making a family of four.

My father proved up this homestead, but later moved to the town of Vegreville owing to my mother's poor health. He had a freight and dray business, and later went to work for James Stanton in his machinery shop for many years.

In 1929 we moved to a farm south of Ranfurly,

and later my father and mother retired in the town of Viking where they lived until their passing.

My oldest sister Stella married Carl Handy. She passed away in 1920 in the flu epidemic. My sister Lila married Dick Rohner at Irma and lived there until her passing in 1976. My brother Percy lived all his life around Vegreville and Viking area. He married Ethel Beamish. He passed away in 1966. So I am the only surviving member of this pioneer family. I married George Bridgeman and we farmed for many years in the Jarrow district, raised our son and daughter there. In 1969, we retired from the farm and moved to Viking, where I still reside. I lost my husband in 1975, so carry on alone. I enjoy good health and keep active.

Wyllie, John and Family

by P. Wyllie

John Wyllie and Sarah Ferguson were born and raised on farms in the county of Ayrshire, Scotland. In July 1903, they were married and emigrated immediately to Canada. Arriving in Ontario, they spent the first winter working for a farmer near Guelph, Ontario. Early in 1904 they came to Calgary by CPR train. After spending a few weeks looking around the Calgary area they decided the cold prairies were not their idea of a suitable place to farm and returned to Ontario. They started farming near Oriole about 12 miles from down-town Toronto. Later they rented a farm near Agincourt and raised winter wheat, peas, oats, timothy hay and hogs.

The timothy hay was sold to the City of Toronto to feed the horses used to pull the street cars around the city. The hogs raised on the pea and oat mixture were slaughtered on the farm, taken to Toronto and sold direct to retail butchers. By 1910 their farming efforts were progressing favourably, when misfortune overtook them. The 1910 harvest was completed and safely stored in the bank barn to be threshed later in the fall. Before the arrival of the threshermen, lightning struck and destroyed the barn and all the crops.

With this setback the Wyllie's decided once again to come West to start anew. Arriving in Edmonton via Calgary early in 1911, the family spent three months living in a stone house on Ross Flats, near where the Macdonald Bridge is today. John Wyllie travelled in the surrounding country, finally purchasing the NW¼ 18-50-14-4, 12 miles south of Vegreville. While residing in Edmonton the family watched the construction of the Alberta Legislative Building, and the building of the High Level Bridge.

Having located a farm, John Wyllie proceeded to purchase a team, a wagon, walking plow, harrows, some household furniture and utensils. When the



On Wyllie farm, 1915. New frame house built in 1914, a log barn with attached shed of straw and sod roof, and log granary.

wagon was loaded, he left on a Monday morning heading for the farm, and spent the next five days travelling overland, through the Cooking Lake Hills, arriving in Ryley late Friday night. Mrs. Wyllie and four boys went down to Ryley and spent the five days in a Ryley Hotel. Saturday morning saw the wagon leave Ryley, with the family perched on top to continue the journey to the farm. It was an eventful trip, swatting the hordes of mosquitoes, driving around sloughs, past thatched-roof houses. They arrived at Martin's Post Office about 11:00 P.M., still three miles from their destination. After midnight they arrived at the farmstead, which consisted of one log barn with a sod roof, and a log granary with a tar paper roof.

The granary was not suitable for cold weather, so the family, and livestock were moved, and the first winter was spent looking after the Goodland's place and living in a frame house, half a mile north of Adams School (now the Adams Community Centre). Peter, the oldest boy, attended Adams school the first winter, and succeeding terms through to 1918. In the spring the family moved back to the log granary, eventually building a frame house. In those early



Wyllie's horses — Lily and Rosie — 1st Prize agricultural team shown at Vegreville Fair, 1918.

years the closest neighbors were George Giebelhaus (grandfather of Wm., Dan, and John Giebelhaus, who now farm south of Vegreville), Rosario Lafleur, Percy and Fred Fordham, Adam Giebelhaus, and another Giebelhaus. All land between the Wyllie's and neighbors was unoccupied, and was used for pasture and putting up wild hay. The family's first cow was purchased from George Giebelhaus.

John Wyllie, who had been raised in the lowlands of Scotland, brought with him the skills of agriculture as practiced at that time. Ayrshire was the home and the foundation place of the Clydesdale horse. John was familiar with the development of this fine breed of draft horse. It was only natural that he would set as his objective, the raising of Clydesdale horses, and Shorthorn cattle. All grain and hay raised in the fields was used on the farm. John seldom sold a bushel of grain. It was a struggle in those early years to feed and clothe a growing family. However, despite the crops being frozen in July 1918, by 1919 the cattle had increased to 55 head and the horses to seven or eight. The year 1919 was a dry year, crops were light, yields low, and with winter arriving early in October, the family along with many other settlers, faced a problem of securing feed supplies for their livestock. Many arduous trips were made to Vegreville to purchase hay, straw, or greenfeed that had been shipped in by railway. Due to the competition with hundreds of other needy farmers, seldom did one get more than a few bales. Finally in January 1920, after a trip to Vegreville, where 200 and more farmers fought for two carloads of hay, two bales of upland hay costing \$7.85 was all that the family took home! After one whole day spent, and 24 miles travelled in sub-zero weather! The rest of the winter the livestock received a ration of oats, and roughage was provided by willow brush, which the cattle chewed down to the snow level. This change in strategy proved successful; only five cattle were lost out of 55 head.

Good crops were harvested in 1920 and the fol-

lowing years. Revenues were supplemented by selling cream, dairy butter to customers in Vegreville, finished beef, and hogs. Soon the NE 18-50-14, and SW 20-50-14 were added to the original farm. Land cleared and broken provided increased feed supplies for continually-expanding herds of cattle and horses.

In 1918 John Wyllie showed three horses at the Vegreville fair, winning three firsts and one second prize. Mrs. Wyllie exhibited dairy butter and home baking. For a number of years the Agricultural team won many prizes at Vegreville, Holden and Viking fairs. In 1928 a new team came into the picture (Flossie and Flora) which continued to win top places for the Wyllie family. All animals ever exhibited by John were bred and raised on the farm. From 1918 to 1979, 61 years, John Wyllie and his descendants have been associated with the Vegreville Fair, or Exhibition, as exhibitors, as judges, as Sec. Mgr., President, as directors, and at present some great-grandchildren are Junior Directors.

From 1911 to early in the 1920's, the Wyllie children attended Adams School; their own school district (Mayflower) remained closed because of lack of pupils. However, in the 1920's sufficient pupils arrived to warrant the reopening of the Mayflower school, and the rest of the Wyllie children were transferred from Adams School to complete their primary education at Mayflower.

Of the Wyllie family, Peter, William, James, and John were born in Ontario. Robert, Andrew, Mary, and Margaret were born in Alberta. Margaret, the youngest, passed away between two and three years.

Peter, Robert, Andrew and Mary attended the Vermilion School of Agriculture, and Peter went on to graduate from the University of Alberta with a B.Sc. in Agriculture. The Wyllie family were members of the first Junior Boys' and Girls' Swine Club at Vegreville in 1924. Peter, James, and Robert were members of three championship Swine Club teams from Alberta sent to the Dominion finals held at the



Flossie and Flora — 1st Prize Agricultural team bred and raised by J. Wyllie and shown at the 1928 Vegreville Fair.



John Wyllie family, 1932. Seated — Mr. and Mrs. John Wyllie. Standing (l. to r.) — Peter, William, James, Mary, John, Robert, Andrew.

Toronto Royal. They won the Dominion title in 1924 and 1930.

John Wyllie passed away in December, 1938, but left a legacy among his family so that all but one, John Jr., made agriculture their life's work. John Jr. became an electrician and is now retired in Prince Rupert, B.C. Mrs. Wyllie Sr. continued to operate the farm till 1945 with the help of her sons Robert and Andrew. At that time she retired to Vegreville, leaving Andrew to operate and eventually purchase the farm. Mrs. Wyllie passed away in June, 1969, leaving six sons and one daughter, and twenty grandchildren. The sons and daughter have been involved in livestock production, specializing in Purebred cattle, hogs and horses, over the years. Their families were all active in 4H club work, and still are involved.

Today, Peter and Marion (Zaiser) are retired and living in Vegreville. Their family of five: Margaret, Peter, Hugh, Elaine, and Diane, live in Edmonton, Delta, B.C., and Montmagny, Que.

William and Edith (Selph) are retired in Vegreville; their son Douglas is at Irvine Farms, Vegreville, and Ronald lives at Breton.

James and Gladys (Kelly) still reside on their farm south of Vegreville; their daughter June (Mrs. Fred Scott) lives on a farm at Mannville.

John Wyllie lost his wife Helen in May 1979; their two children Janet and Craig live at Prince Rupert.

Robert and Isabel Wyllie are still farming near Tofield; their family, Graham, Don and Colleen also reside in Alberta.

Andrew and Evelyn (Drozdowich) have both passed away leaving their children, Doris, Clifford, Dennis, Marilyn and Eileen; Clifford resides in Ontario, the rest live in Alberta.

Mary (Zwierschke) and her husband Charles are still farming with their son Allan south of Vegreville. Their daughter Norma (Westrom) lives in Vancouver.

Wynnychuk, Dmetro and Olena

by Mary (Wynnychuk) Kudryk

Mr. and Mrs. Dmetro Wynnychuk (also known as George Wynnychuk) pioneered in the Vegreville district shortly after the turn of the century. In 1900 Olena, born November 24, 1889, emigrated to Canada as a young girl of eleven years with her parents Wasylyna and Yurko Diduch from the village of Rusiw, district of Horodenka in Western Ukraine. They left their native land in search of freedom and a better life in Canada because the landlord system brought them slow and meagre returns back home. The Diducks sailed from Hamburg and some four



Dmetro and Olena Wynnychuk at their home, 1919.

weeks later docked in Halifax from where they proceeded west via Canadian Pacific train to Strathcona, Alberta. Here they were met by friends (former neighbors in the Old Country) with a wagon and a team of horses, who took them to their already established log cabin home near Hilliard, Alberta.

Olena remembered this long, tedious journey over bumpy Indian trails and wondered out loud if indeed they had come to a better country. While in Strathcona to meet the Diduchs at the immigration building, the friends bought a cow which, tied behind the wagon, also made the arduous journey.

The Diduchs stayed with their friends while they looked the land over and located their own homestead. They built their own log cabin and, like it or not, waited for their own destiny to unfold.

Olena did not recall any really hungry times as her resourceful mother always thought of something to make. She was often sent to a nearby creek (Beaver) to catch a fish with her bare hands, so abundant they were! In spring, wild ducks and geese nested in the marshes and Olena enjoyed searching for their eggs in familiar places. Staples like flour, sugar and

salt had to be purchased in Edmonton and Yurko often went shopping on foot which took up to two weeks for a return trip. Later when a neighbor acquired a stone flour mill, Olena was able to help.

She often related an experience when she and her older sister Maria had to carry a small sack of wheat to be ground into flour. This was early in November and the first snow-fall had covered the ground. Olena and Maria were bare-footed and soon their toes were numb with cold. A cow was lying in their path so chasing her off, they stood on the warm ground until they could feel their toes again.

Schools were non-existent in Olena's childhood days so, besides helping her parents, she played with her brother and sister at self-invented games. While pasturing the cow and sheep they played in the creek and picked wild flowers.

When Olena was nearly fifteen, a pair of strange visitors arrived one day. Unbeknown to Olena, this was a match-maker, and a suitor by the name of Dmetro Wynnychuk. After a short conference with the parents, the visitors left and Olena was called in and informed that she would soon be getting married. Her tears and pleas did not help; her parents wishes were to be respected.

Dmetro Wynnychuk, born January 19, 1886, the youngest of a family of five boys, emigrated to Canada with his parents Oleksa and Wasylyna Wynnychuk from the village of Knyzhi, district of Sniatyn in Western Ukraine. They homesteaded in Raith, Alberta, now known as Royal Park, on land presently owned by the Antonchuk boys.

Dmetro, of a perseverant nature, worked out to supplement his parents' income. He worked on a farm near Vegreville for a Harkness family where he learned to speak English as well as read and write. Pay was meagre, often just one rooster per month (which Dmetro's mother was glad to have to increase her flock of chickens). He also worked on the railway on the C.P. line near Cranbrook, B.C. Harry J. Wynnychuk of Vegreville, Alberta, a nephew of Dmetro, related a story of when he was a young man working for a Tom Moran, a farmer near Biggar, Saskatchewan.

Tom had been a section foreman in Cranbrook during Dmetro's time there. Something about Harry, perhaps his conscientious attack on work, prompted Tom to ask about this "George" that worked under him years ago. His comment was that the name Wynnychuk must mean 'hard-worker'.

At the age of eighteen, Dmetro took his bride Olena, aged fifteen, to live with his parents for a while. Later they homesteaded near Myrnam, Alberta where their first child, Alex, was born in 1905.

Olena was to experience her first sorrow here, too, as the diphtheria epidemic claimed him at the age of three on April 26, 1908.

Dmetro sold his homestead to his nephew and moved to Raith, Alberta, where he bought the north-east quarter of section six, township fifty-three, range fifteen, west of the fourth meridian, from his older brother, Andrew. Together with Olena, they cleared the land, pulled roots and through years of hard work they acquired two other adjoining quarters of land. For young and energetic Olena, the dual role of house-wife and farm help-mate was taken as a matter of course. Gathering kindlings for starting the morning fire in the wood and coal stove, keeping the wood-box filled, the water pail and stove reservoir filled, the ash can emptied were some of the little daily chores not to be taken for granted. No turn of a knob or a tap would bring forth fire or water for cooking. Olena baked bread, about twenty or so loaves of various shapes and sizes, in a long clay and brick oven. The fire was lit in the oven long before the dough was shaped into loaves, as the temperature was gauged by the amount of logs burned, usually dragged home by Olena the day before. When the oven was thought to be ready, Olena raked the live coals forward and heaped them to the sides for heat during baking. As this was done, one could see sparks fly from the hot bricks. Then each pan was placed on a long-handled small platform and one by one pushed to the back of the oven, center and right up to the opening. Then a well-fitted door was put in place enclosing the hot coals and the bread. Olena then made a sign of the cross in front of the door and waited for an hour; mouth-watering aroma waffled from the oven to fill the air outside. At the end of an hour, Olena used a long-handled wooden rake to bring the loaves out. No modern cooking appliance could produce such uniformly browned bread with such crusty surfaces. Small wonder that bread-baking days were looked forward to by the whole family!

Olena was capable of taking over many a farm task such as cutting grain with a horse-pulled binder. The girls recall taking their youngest baby sister in a carriage, one-quarter mile down the road where Olena would be waiting to breast-feed her; the horses meanwhile enjoying a rest. Little did their mother know how many spills the baby took in their rush to get back home.

Olena and Dmetro had no luck for boys. Pneumonia was to claim their second son, Mike, at the age of thirteen months. Despite the efforts to save him, he died at the R.M.B. Hospital on March 8, 1919. They already had three daughters and one more was to come after Mike, so Olena was assured of plenty of



Olena and Steve Wynnchuk and their three children, about 1937. Back row (l. to r.) — Steve, brother Mike, brother John. Front row (l. to r.) — Edward, Olena, Elsie, Walter.

help indoors. Outside work, however, was not shied away from by the girls. They gardened, milked cows, churned butter, cleaned barns, raked hay and stoked.

A school was organized in the district in 1907 and because many of the settlers were from the same village in Ukraine, it was their wish to name their school “Kolomea”. The building was a two-storey structure with a stairway to the attic. During the winter it was heated by a large pot-bellied heater. On very cold mornings it was not unusual to see children around it until almost recess. The girls packed their lunches in lard pails and with slates under their arms often walked the three miles’ distance.

Some of the early teachers remembered were Mr. Ruryk, Mr. McCorey, Mr. Woyewitka, Mr. Hryhorowich, Mr. John Kostash and Mr. William Kostash.

Dmetro worked out his tax share building community roads along with other farmers. First the roadway was ploughed and then either two-horse scrapers or four-horse scrapers were used to shape up the roads. Heavy rains often left them in a gooey mess of gumbo, requiring frequent maintenance.

The winter of 1918 was the time of the flu epidemic. Olena remembered being sick in bed with a fever surrounded by her sick children, with only Dmetro up on his feet. He doctored his family back to health by administering his home remedy of whiskey mixed with crushed garlic. When all was well at home Dmetro went out selling Singer Sewing machines. It is not known how successful he was as a salesman, but things were looking up because by the end of 1918 he purchased his first car, a touring McLaughlin Buick. After that, if the children were not in the house they were sure to be found sitting in

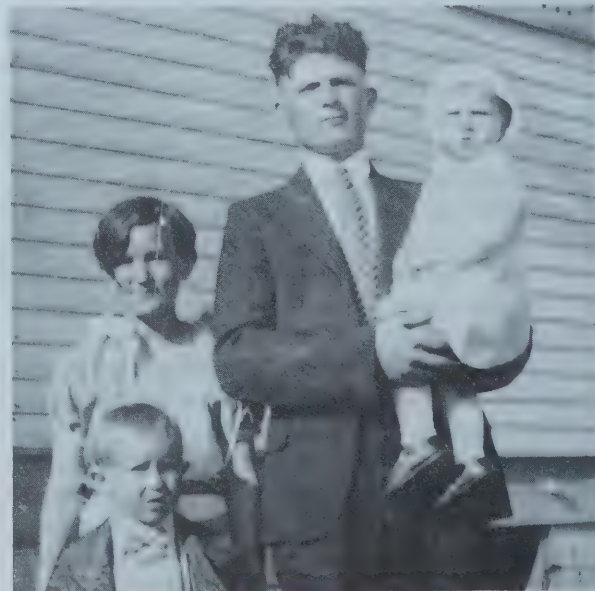
the car, inhaling the smell of the new upholstery and letting their imaginations run wild!

Farm dances were held, sometimes even on a Sunday afternoon, usually in a new barn or granary. Anyone who could play an instrument or owned one was willing to come and entertain. Harry J. Wynnchuk recalls one such granary dance held on Dmetro’s farm when he, playing the drum, and Mr. Tom Lemiski, playing the violin, made up the band. No one in the community passed up a chance to socialize and forget their troubles for the moment.

Olena was aware of her lack of schooling and became a willing pupil of either her husband or the hired man. Winter evenings were spent in tutoring her first in the Ukrainian language. When she was able to read the Ukrainian newspaper, Dmetro taught her the English alphabet. She could eventually sign her name in English and read a little.

Dmetro also taught her to drive the car and Olena was then able to make trips to town by herself. Perhaps her husband had a premonition that she would need this independence for in 1919 he became ill. He had been doing spring ploughing and two more rounds would have completed the job when rain began to fall. Determined to finish, he continued but he was to regret his perseverance. The next four years saw him in and out of hospitals, first at Vegreville, then in Kamloops, B.C. where there was a sanatorium for tubercular patients. He died at home on May 1, 1923, at the age of 36.

Olena with her young family continued to farm with the help of hired men . . . and loyal and dedi-



Steve Wynnchuk, with 3 of the children: up front — Edward, Nellie, and Steve holding baby Elsie, 1932.

cated men they were. John Woloschuk was one of them, perhaps remembered best because of the many years he worked for Olena. She even sponsored a wife for him from Ukraine and made a wedding for them. They both remained in her employ until greener pastures beckoned to them.

In 1927 she married again, Steve Wynnnychuk, a distant relative of Dmetro's. Steve emigrated to Canada in 1923, also from the district of Sniatyn in Western Ukraine. Steve got his farming experience by working on several farms in the Royal Park area. He also worked on a large wheat ranch in Saskatchewan. Harry J. Wynnnychuk remembers this place well as he himself had worked there and was later to recommend it to Steve. The ranch was called the "Big Four" because they used the large four-cylinder tractors which proved cumbersome to start. The owner later reverted to the use of horses and mules.

In 1928, Steve and Olena built a new home on the farm. Telephones and power were then available in the rural areas. So, also with an oil furnace and their own running water system, they were able to enjoy some of the amenities of town life.

The depression of the thirties was felt here as everywhere else in Canada. Steve recalls the meagre returns for his grain and farm produce. Wheat sold for 19¢ a bushel, oats for 8¢ a bushel and barley at 10¢ a bushel. You could have bought a cow for \$10.00 or sold one for even less. He remembers shipping a cow to Edmonton, the price of which was not enough to pay for shipping charges so he had to give the trucker a turkey. Cream sold for \$1.50 a five-gallon can and eggs were 5¢ or 6¢ a dozen.

Among the threshing crews recalled by Steve and his hired man were the Koshures and Kassians. Both of these families were fortunate to have several sons who made up the crews. It was indeed an exciting time for the teen-aged Wynnnychuk girls when a crew of these handsome boys were moving in. It was a welcome chance to stay home from school and help with the baking and cooking. And there was always a scramble as to who should accompany the afternoon lunch out in the field.

Daylight had to be saved for the actual threshing, so breakfast was served before daybreak. While the men attended to their teams, Olena, before the rooster crowed, put on the coffee, porridge, fried home-cured bacon, eggs and hash browns. After the men left, the womenfolk after their breakfast had cows to milk, pigs and chickens to tend to, and dinner to think of.

Steve worked with horses until 1941, when he bought his first tractor, a second-hand McCormick

Deering. Binder and thresher gave way to swather and combine in 1953. Gone were the days of large threshing crews, horses, hay racks, stooks and neighborly camaraderie.

Steve and Olena added three children to their family, one girl and two boys. Olena at last was to experience the joy of raising boys. It was no easy task to put each of the seven through school, watch them leave home as one by one they followed their destiny as their parents and grandparents did.

Olena's health began to fail in her eighties. She entered the Vegreville Homestead Lodge in January, 1975. She passed away on February 25, 1979, in the Auxiliary Hospital at the age of 89.

Steve, although retired from farming operations, continues to live at the farm and enjoys fairly good health. The family of ten reunites at the farm to reminisce about "the good old days" and catch up on the present.

Wynnnychuk, Harry and Anna **by Lena Zuk**

Anna and Harry were in their teens, when they and their parents sailed from Hamburg, Germany, to Eastern Canada. The journey took two weeks. From there they travelled by train to Winnipeg, then to Edmonton.

Anna's parents, the Wm. Cherniawskys, homesteaded six miles north and one mile west of Royal Park, while Harry's homesteaded ¼ mile north of the same place. This was in the year 1900.

In two years, Anna and Harry married and got the following homestead: — SE¼ 6-53-15W, 4th. They



Anna and Harry Wynnnychuk and daughter Lena. In the background is a pioneer log building with a thatched roof, 1910's.

built a one-room house of logs. A lean-to housed their first cow. The land was mostly bush. By hand they cleared a plot to plant their garden and seed a bit of wheat and oats. They soon had wheat for flour and oats for their horses. Harry soon went to work on the railroad which was being built. He was the cook's helper.

In 1903 their first child, Mary, was born. Later came: Alex, Bill, Mike, Lena, Elsie and Helen.

Their first post office was in Old Vegreville, then later at Raith, now Royal Park. Mr. Jeremy built the first store and post office (all in one) here. Later, he and a number of people in the community built a hall. When the railway was built through Royal Park, the Alberta Pacific was the first elevator erected. Ollie Borge was the agent. He used to buy milk and eggs from the Wynnychuks. In 1920 there was so much snow he skied from his doorstep over fence posts and right to the farm house.

Wildlife and berries provided much of their food. Prairie chickens and rabbits abounded. Years later the rabbits were diseased — large blisters appeared under the skin. Saskatoons were plentiful. No jars, no canning. Later when a pig was butchered, in the fall usually, slabs of side pork were sacked and buried in the grain. The meat was sliced and fried, put in crocks and covered with rendered lard to exclude air and prevent spoilage. Barrels of sauerkraut were frozen. Wheat was taken to a Mundare Mill to make flour. Hulless oats, when chopped or cracked together with cracked wheat was used to make holopchi.

There was no school in the district when Mary was of school age. She was sent to the Vegreville Presbyterian Girls school where she also boarded. The rest of the children attended the Kolomea school later when it was built 3½ miles northwest of the farm. Horse and buggy was used for transportation, but when the horse was needed for farm work, spring and fall, the children walked cross-country.

The school was named after a city "in the old Country". In the winter, parents took turns taking the children to school. The first school, one room, was demolished to make way for a modern two-room one. There were classes from Grades one to ten. When years later the students were bussed to Vegreville, this school was moved to Lavoy in 1953 where it serves as a Ukrainian Greek Catholic church.

S. J. Porayko was Secretary-Treasurer of the School District for many years. Harry was trustee for two terms.

Mr. Zalizniak used to inoculate the school children. Mr. Plawiuk came to the school to speak on the

activities of the Red Cross and collected change for same from the students.

Mr. Wm. Pidruchney was the district agriculturist. Farm produce was brought and judged right in the school.

The first church attended by the family was located on the north-east side of the Royal Park cemetery. This was Ukrainian Presbyterian. Mr. Zalizniak was one of the ministers. This church burned down. The next church was built north-east of the present Sich-Kolomea cemetery. This was Ukrainian Greek Orthodox. When this burned down a large one was erected and still stands. It is located one-half mile east and six miles north of Royal Park.

Mr. McLeery was the first one in the district to own a telephone. The family remembers their own emergency call from there.

Beaverhill Lake provided the family with a lot of whitefish. A two-wheeled cart fitted with a large tub pulled by a gentle horse was the outfit that brought it home. When cleaned, salted and peppered, it was smoked in the smokehouse.

While doing field work with horses one day, Harry noticed that a hawk had picked up something nearby and flew way up. Then in a very short while the hawk came down and dropped lifeless, while a weasel ran away. While up in the air the weasel had sucked the bird's blood.

Anna recalled an incident: Just before Easter there was so much to do including bread-baking and white-washing. One evening she set the bread sponge and went to bed. In her sleep she got up and used the sponge to "Calimine" her kitchen walls until she stubbed her toe and woke, lit the lamp and surveyed the mess.

Harry died in 1937 at the age of 56, Anna died in 1974 at the age of 86.

Wynnychuk, Harry J. by Harry J. Wynnychuk

I was born in 1901 in the village of Knzi, province of Sniatyn, Western Ukraine. My mother passed away when I was two years old. A few years later my father, Alec Wynnychuk, decided to come to Canada to join relatives who were already there. With my father and older brother, Alec, we left our home shortly after Easter, 1906, to go to Antwerp, Belgium, to catch the immigrant ship. The ship we were to travel on sank before it reached Antwerp, so we had to wait three weeks for the next one. During this time we stayed at Immigration House, but through the carelessness of one of the guests it burned and we had to go to Hamburg, Germany, to wait for the next ship. In the middle of the ocean the ship somehow sprung a leak and the passengers prepared

to abandon ship. We put on life jackets and waited in fear and trembling for the order. In the meantime two other ships came to give us aid and the ship was repaired enough to limp into port. The ocean trip took at least a month, much more time than it should have taken. We boarded a C.P.R. train to come to Edmonton, arriving at Strathcona station, caught a passenger train at the Edmonton station to come to Royal Park, then known as Raith. No one was there to meet us because we should have come in July and it was now August. When we left the train it was raining very hard. We didn't know where to go. After a while my grandfather, grandmother, and two uncles came to get us. My uncle Harry had been asleep only a short time when he dreamed that we had arrived, so everyone arose to come and get us.

Our arrival in Canada was a cause for a celebration. One of my uncles had bought a keg of beer for the occasion and kept it hidden in the ground for three months until we came.

It was harvest time when we came and I remember the wheat being very tall, but there was just a small patch of it. We stayed with my grandparents in their two-roomed log house that winter. There were eleven people living there. In the spring, 1907, my father went to Edmonton to work on the railroad for 15¢ an hour. I stayed with my grandparents and my brother, Alec, stayed with an uncle. During that summer my father married Irene Kibick, who came from the same place in the old country as we did. In the fall my father bought a pair of oxen from Mr. Spak (John Spak's father), a brand new wagon, a rake, mower and plow with the wages he had earned. Then we moved to a homestead south-east of Myram. My father worked in Edmonton till December and then joined his family who were staying at his cousin's place. We stayed there till March and then moved into our own log house which was only partly finished, living under very crude conditions till spring arrived.

One day my father sent me to bring the cows home for the evening milking. There was a grove of saskatoon bushes and I stopped to eat some of the beautiful berries. The dogs began to bark and a bear stood up and growled at me. I was so frightened I outran the dogs in the race for home. When I told my father about the bear he didn't have a bit of sympathy for me. He made me get the cows, instructing me to keep away from the saskatoon patch.

I left home in 1914 at the age of 13 and was taken in by Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Hobbis of Vermilion. I worked for them for \$25.00 a month and was treated as a member of the family. They taught me to speak English in a very short time. I stayed there till 1918, then worked for an uncle at Royal Park, then at



Harry Wynnychuk, 1937.

Swift's Packing Plant in Edmonton, on to Biggar, Saskatchewan, to work for Mr. Morran during harvesting. I travelled and worked at odd jobs until I got married.

On November 19, 1927, Lena Duliba and I were married at Royal Park. There was two feet of snow and it was 30 degrees below zero. When we came back from the church I went threshing. There was no thought of a honeymoon.

In 1928 we rented land from Joe Green. The crops were very poor so in 1930 I moved to Vegreville and worked at any jobs available. In 1936 I began to work for the Government of Alberta as a helper on a truck hauling gravel for Highway 16. In 1937 I was promoted to truck driver and foreman with two men working under my direction. In 1942 I became a grader operator in summer and ran a snowplow in winter. In 1960 I became the head janitor of the Vegreville Court House. I retired in 1965.

Lena and I have three sons —

Marshall — married Mary Williams of Lacombe — they have two boys, Leroy and Steven.

Eugene — married Mary Danesik of Kinsella — they have two girls, Sandra and Barbara.

Bohdan (Bob) — married Gwen Griffin (deceased) of Dauphin, Manitoba — they have three children, Jerry, Laura and Donna.

In 1977 we celebrated our 50th Wedding Anniversary with friends and relations from near and far. We still live in our own home in Vegreville.

**Yak, Dr. John M.D., C.M., (McGill) M.D.
(U. of A.) L.M.C.C.**

by John Yak

I was born November 8, 1899, on a farm near Winnipeg Beach just over thirty miles north of Win-



Dr. John Yak M.D. graduation, Montreal, 1923. Arrived at Vegreville 1924.



Dr. John Yak, 1940's.

nipeg. I had three brothers and three sisters. The eldest sister was married to a school teacher; the eldest brother got his B.A., L.L.B. and was practising law in Winnipeg and was an M.L.A. for two terms for Emerson Constituency. The sister next to him in age was a school teacher married to a lawyer who became a Judge in Saskatchewan; the brother next, after elementary education remained at home and helped our father look after the three farms; next I came and continued my education until I became an M.D.; the sister next to me finished Nursing School in Winnipeg getting her R.N.; the youngest brother graduated in Pharmacy and opened his own drug store in a small town (with a hospital) in southern Manitoba.

Since I intended to practice in the West I took my internship at the University Hospital in Edmonton. As a matter of fact, I became the very first intern there and had to do all the work myself for several months before they got two more interns.

Near completion of my internship, the Vegreville General Hospital was badly in need of another doctor to fill a vacancy created by a departed doctor. Somehow I was recommended and I gladly agreed to "hang my shingle" in Vegreville.

I arrived in Vegreville early in June, 1924, and was introduced to the Sisters by the late Mr. Peter Svarich. The Sister Superior started from the "top" to show me her Institute. First she took me to the Chapel. To show her that I was a Catholic, I crossed myself, genuflected and knelt down on the kneeler and said a short prayer: "Almighty Lord, please lead me on from here and show me the way in the grave undertakings that I will encounter. Amen." On this floor a very neat and clean good-sized operating room for major surgery was located and across the hallway a much smaller operating room was located. Next to this O.R., returning to the elevator, there was a doctors' room and beyond that there was a large long empty space ideal for a good laboratory. On the third floor there were some private and semi-private rooms and a large public ward. The second floor appeared the same as the third. Both floors were kept very clean and all the beds neatly made. The ground floor contained the entrance, a waiting room, the hospital office, one examining room, a doctors' cloakroom, a sofa, a number of chairs and a desk. Beyond this was a very modern delivery room kept spotlessly neat and clean. Across was a Nursery for the newborn. It had a large window through which the father could be shown his offspring. There also were several maternity beds on the first floor.

I congratulated the Sister for the very fine hospital, pointed out a few facilities lacking and said if she

could see her way clear to acquire a few articles of equipment I would settle in Vegreville.

I located a place for my office in town and drove to Edmonton to get and order supplies and found out where to get an X-ray outfit and supplies for a laboratory. As some things were not readily available I asked for a detail man to come to Vegreville so the hospital and I could make further orders.

However, I ran into Dr. Rankin, the Dean of Medicine, and borrowed his private microscope. He sent me to the Provincial Laboratory to get some slides for the microscope and a quantity of test tubes and reagents for our hospital laboratory. I also ordered one dozen quart-size glucose in 0.9% water, all sterilized and ready for intravenous injection for post-operative patients. These I brought with me to Vegreville.

The space next to the doctors' room was prepared for a lab. and installation of an X-ray. Since they never had a microscope before, I spent about a month, at intervals, teaching two Sisters how to use it doing blood counts, etc. and examining urine for blood cells and casts, blood cell counts and to examine stools for worms: flat worms, round worms, pin worms, whip worms, and undigested food. The Sisters made good students.



Dr. Yak and Dr. Couillard. Vegreville General Hospital, 1933.

When the portable X-ray machine arrived, the detail man set it up and demonstrated how to make Fluoroscopic examinations and how to take "pictures" and develop the films and how to store them for future use.

We then departmentalized the hospital into a surgical ward, medical ward, maternity ward and a children's ward for about ten patients. We were able to give blood transfusions for the first time and although the Sisters learned how to type blood and match it with the patients', I reserved that duty for myself during my practice.

I was lucky with my first seriously ill patient, a young male with a ruptured appendix, who recovered completely. After this, patients started to come in and practically fill the fifty-bed hospital. Of course the other three doctors had patients of their own too.

Early in June 1925 an accreditation doctor visited our hospital. I happened to be present so the Sister Superior and I showed the hospital to the "Inspector" from top to bottom. After the inspection he asked me to the doctors' office on the first floor and made me sit down while he filled out his report.

After he finished his report he turned to me and said he was very much impressed with our hospital and that he is recommending an A-1 accreditation to the office in the U.S.A. He asked me to do the following:

- (1) Get an up-to-date laboratory and a full-time technician.
- (2) Get a better and larger X-ray machine.
- (3) Organize the doctors into "Vegreville Medical Society" and have monthly meetings.
- (4) Keep the patients' histories on a chart and mark their progress at each visit.

I told him that he could depend on his recommendation being done without reservations. He agreed and from 1926 the Vegreville General Hospital got the A-1 standing *which is the biggest honour any hospital can get* and a great boon to the community in which the hospital is located! It is paradoxical that Vegreville had an A-1 hospital which was equal to any of the best large hospitals on the American continent, although it was never praised locally. This high accreditation has been maintained until the present, and will be kept on in the future.

The patients kept filing in so that by the end of the twenties they had to build an addition to the hospital to accommodate them. The carpenters made so much noise that I took off three months and went to the States to review anatomy, abdominal surgery, obstetrics and other operations. Of course, for serious cases we always called a qualified surgeon from Edmonton or Lamont.

I realized that I wouldn't last long at the pace I was going and could not do justice to the patients, so when I learned of a Shandro who had graduated from McGill and was looking after the injured and sick at Noranda Mines in northern Ontario, I immediately wrote him a letter explaining our situation. Seeing the great possibilities, Dr. W. A. Shandro joined me in partnership. Since we needed a Clinic he asked his father, Mr. A. Shandro, to undertake the project; a lot behind the Bank of Commerce was purchased and the Clinic was completed in a few months. We had a receptionist, a technician for the laboratory and X-ray, three examining rooms, a "surgery" for minor work and a "flop" room to repose on the sofa or have a coffee break every day at four.

Dr. W. A. Shandro proved to be very pleasant, knowledgeable and very good in surgery. We got along perfectly — always having consultations on difficult diagnoses and we kept the hospital busy.

In 1941, Dr. Shandro went for a year's post-graduate work to Toronto and I was to go the following year, but World War II intervened and Dr. Shandro, after completing his year of study, joined the Navy and did not return to Vegreville. I looked for young doctors to help me, but after a few months the recruiting officer would take them away. I don't remember how many helpers of mine were seized by the Army, but I remember my headaches. Finally I got Dr. Svarich who had a few years of practice and fortunately he stayed with me awhile. In February, 1944, I developed a coronary disease and that was the end of my time in Vegreville. My cardiologist advised me to leave my practice and retire at the coast where I am still. I am looking through the window of my den as I write, watching the Pacific ocean and the pelting rain. I was married in 1928 to Catherine Lemiski whose father, Frank Lemiski, was a partner in the pioneer trading firm of Lemiski and Shokoples on Main Street.

Besides being so busy with my practice in Vegreville I belonged to the following: trustee of the Separate School for fifteen years, a coroner, C.P.R. doctor for the northern line, doctor to the R.C.M.P. — together with another doctor, Health Officer for two northern municipalities. All these gave me additional work from time to time (which I did not need).

Most all country doctors frequently experience great difficulties outside the practice of medicine. I had my share in the twenty years I practiced of which I shall mention a couple at least.

The most demanding instances were concerned with country calls. About midnight in the middle of winter, with the temperature at around fifty degrees F. below zero, a phone call came in to see a very ill patient twenty or thirty miles out in the country. The

roads were dirt roads and impassable by car. Whenever such a call came to me I couldn't refuse, so I would hire a horse-driven sleigh. I put on two pair of heavy woollen socks, a suede jacket and a beaver coat, a fur cap and fur mittens. There was a young Frenchman who ran a livery stable on Railway Ave. and by the time I got dressed the vehicle was in front of the house. Practically every trip the driver would upset the vehicle in a snow drift. The worst of it was that each "spill", invariably, would tip my way and I would be covered with the livery man, the sleigh with contents and a bunch of snow.

One late night in mid-winter a well-known farmer north of town was bringing his wife, in their car, to the hospital for confinement. The road was slippery and about five miles from town the car skidded and landed in the ditch. Fortunately, a house was nearby and they had a telephone. The husband phoned me to come to the site immediately, explaining the accident. I dressed up in a hurry, grabbed my "maternity" bag and drove to the scene, getting there in a short time. With a good flashlight I looked into the upset car and saw that the child-birth was in the final stages of progress. All I had to do was to open my bag of sterilized material, put on sterile gloves, sever the umbilical cord and wrap the new-born in a sterile doctor's gown. I took off my beaver coat and placed the baby on the front seat of my car, covering it comfortably in the fur coat, making room for a free access of air. We carried the mother and lay her down in the back seat with the husband by her to watch that she didn't roll off. There were no heaters in the cars yet and I had only a suit jacket to keep me warm. We got to the hospital safely and the Sisters took over further care of the mother and baby. The next morning the mother and baby were fine but Dr. Yak was in bed with a bad cold - which he was incubating at the time, apparently.

There are, however, compensations: when a mother takes a cured baby in her arms to take home, the look in her eyes when she thanks the doctor is so magnificently grateful that no money can buy it.

In conclusion I wish to state that I enjoyed living in Vegreville, to thank the good Sisters who have since passed on; thank the doctors who were always willing to help me (who have since passed on also); to thank the citizens of Vegreville and the farmers who were always so nice to me. If I had to live my life over again I would like to come back to Vegreville, for nowhere are there nicer people than in Vegreville, Alberta.

Yakimetz, Andrew and Annie
as told by Annie Yakimetz

The Yakimetz family were early pioneers in this



The Andrew Yakimetz children, 1939. (L. to r.) — William, Marian, Emily, and John, with the family car, house, and farm (6-53-13) in the background.

area, settling on a large farm in the New Kiew district where they raised grain, livestock, and reared their children, of whom Andrew, Mrs. Chapelski, and Nick remained in the Vegreville vicinity. In 1928, Andrew married Annie Myskiw and they started their farm in the Highlow district, engaging in mixed farming for thirty-two years. Andrew suffered from severe asthma, so Annie had to watch out for him in case he had an attack while handling machinery. She and the children also had to do more than the usual share of farm chores, especially in the winter as the cold aggravated Andrew's condition. Still they kept up the work until 1961 when they moved to town; shortly after that, Andrew died. Annie remains active, keeping her own house and garden on Hospital Avenue, visiting friends, and helping her children and grandchildren whenever she is needed. Andrew and Annie had four children, all born, raised, and educated here. Emily married Daniel "Buster" Bradshaw; they are still in business in town; their children are Jim, Kelly, Lyndon, and Marla. William "Bill" Yakimetz is now in business in Hawaii with wife Dorene; their children are: Jane, Linda, Billy, and Tammy. John Yakimetz is with the Ezee-on Company in Vegreville; he and his wife Sally (nee Diachuk) have two children: Willand and Jacqueline. Marian Yakimetz Roberts lives in Los Angeles and they have two children. Annie Yakimetz loves to visit her family in these exotic places; she says the climate there agrees with her, but she always is glad to come back to Vegreville because her home and friends are here.

Yakimovitch, Carl and Ann

Ann Elizabeth Durie, the eldest of the Durie family, was born at Plato, Saskatchewan on September 16, 1917. She came to Alberta with her parents three-and-a-half years later where she grew up.

She married Carl Yakimovitch on December 9, 1942 and they farmed in the Ranfurly and Lavoy

districts for seven years — moving to Edmonton, Alberta in December, 1949. They have three children:

Donald of Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta.

Lorraine Correia of Edmonton, Alberta.

Myrna Nolan of Edmonton, Alberta.

One grandchild — Timmy Correia of Edmonton, Alberta.

Yost, John and Christina

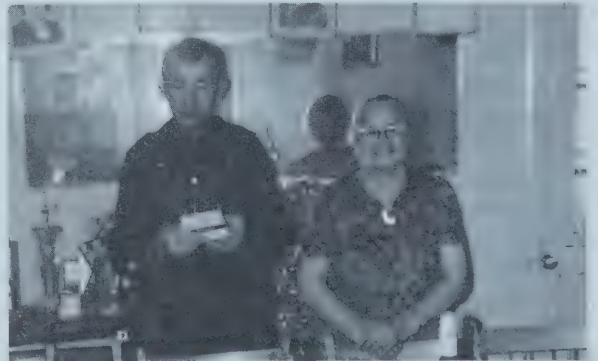
by Rita Smolyk

John Yost was born in Norka, Russia, January 18, 1894. Christina Gelluch was born in the same village May 25, 1895, to John and Elizabeth Gelluch (nee Wolf). In 1912 she and John Yost were united in marriage. Their oldest child, a son, John, passed away at the age of seven years from a ruptured appendix. Due to the bad conditions in the country at the time, the Yosts decided to emigrate to Canada. They, with their three children, Conrad, Elizabeth and Henry, came directly to Vegreville arriving in December, 1924.

During the first three years Mr. Yost supported his family by working for \$30.00 per month on the Roberts' and Junkers' farmsteads. In 1928 the Yost family began farming on their own by renting a quarter-section of the J. B. Holden farm located two miles north of Vegreville. In 1937 they purchased a half-section in the Imperial School District where Mrs. Yost and her youngest son, William, still reside.

On January 18, 1967, Christina and John Yost celebrated their 55th Wedding Anniversary. It was also the occasion of Mr. Yost's 73rd birthday. Pastor Heinemann held a church service bringing to mind their marriage vows of 55 years ago in Norka, Russia. A social evening was then enjoyed by friends and neighbors from near and far. Mr. Peter Kufeldt was master of ceremonies.

Mr. and Mrs. Yost had a family of three sons,



Mr. and Mrs. John Yost, 1964.



Sam Smolyk presenting an honorary membership scroll on behalf of Vegreville and District Historical Society to Mrs. Yost, 1975. Mrs. Yost was 80 years old that day.

Conrad, Henry and William, and three daughters, Mrs. Charles (Elizabeth) Muntz, Mrs. George (Es-ther) Muntz, and Mrs. Sam (Rita) Smolyk, all of Vegreville, twelve grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Mr. Yost passed away August 18, 1971.

Open house was held honoring Mrs. Yost on the occasion of her 80th birthday May 25, 1975. One of the highlights of the afternoon was the presentation by Sam Smolyk, on behalf of the Vegreville and District Historical Society, of an honorary membership scroll.

Though slightly handicapped by her age, Mrs. Yost takes pride in capably managing her house and garden. Her latest accomplishment is the completion of three hand-stitched patchwork quilts, one for each of her daughters. In September, 1979, she dug out every hill of potatoes and put them in pails ready for transport to the basement.

Mrs. Yost enjoys her family and is justly proud of them all.

Yuskow, George Sr. and Anna by George Yuskow Jr.

In the spring of 1900, George and Anna Yuskow, with their family of four children — Mary, Mike, John and baby Fred — decided to leave their homeland village — Kalnikov, province — Halychyna, Western Ukraine, and come to the new land of Canada. They sold their house and eight morgs of land to raise enough money for their trip. After leaving their village by train, they came to the port of Hamburg. Its passengers included different nationalities: Germans, Ukrainians, Jews, etc.



George and Anna Yuskow Sr. family, 1924. (l. to r.) — William, George (Jr.), Harry, John, Mike, Anna (mother) and George Sr. (father). Missing in the picture is daughter Mary — eldest in the family.

The ocean trip of two weeks was very miserable, people were sea-sick, food was very poor — horse meat mostly, to which the people were not accustomed.

The ship arrived at the Canadian Port of Halifax and people were transferred to the Immigration Quarters for the night. Next day the people boarded the train for their destination points across Canada. The Yuskow family arrived in Edmonton and stayed at the Immigration Centre for a week. The place was infested with bedbugs and lice, and the mosquitoes were very bad. George, together with his younger brother Jacob, left Edmonton to find a temporary residence for their families. They came to Mundare and found lodging with the Peter Olecho family, people from their home village. They brought their families from Edmonton and stayed there during the summer. George had enough money to buy one horse, one cow and a wagon in partnership with his brother.

In the fall George bought a homestead at Royal Park, built a house, dug a well and cultivated about one acre of land. During the summer Mother Anna and her ten-year-old daughter Mary mixed clay and hay to plaster the three-room house. In the meantime, father left the family with only half a bag of flour which lasted the family for three months. The children gathered wild duck eggs, caught rabbits, prairie chickens and wild ducks so as to survive until father returned from British Columbia where he was working.

After staying there for two years, George decided to cancel his homestead and bought another homestead in New Kiew N.E. 20-53-13-W4 — nine and a half miles north of Lavoy. This land was adjacent to his brother Jacob's land, and had an abundance of trees available for buildings and firewood, a resource very scarce in his homeland.



George and Vera Yuskow family, 1980. Back — George and son William. Front (l. to r.) — Vera — George's wife; Krista — daughter of Wm. and Margaret Yuskow; Margaret — Wm.'s wife.

In the spring of 1902 father built a framework house and moved his family there. During the night it began to rain very hard and soaked everyone and everything as there was no roof on the house yet, so the parents took their four children and left for shelter at his brother Jacob's place a half mile away, but lost their way in the thick bush. Father called for help and was finally heard by his brother Jacob who put a light in the window, and so they reached the house. Even there the rain was dripping through the thatched roof. Next day father decided to build a hut of poles and covered it with long grass. It was quite comfortable but only for three days. Mosquitoes were very bad and a smudge was made to ward them off. As the cooking was done outside on a tripod, somehow the hut caught fire and everything was destroyed, just the children were saved. The parents were compelled to put a roof on the log house. Again the father left to find work. Mother and her daughter had to plaster the new house again by themselves. Cooking was done outside on a tripod. Father built a barn in 1903.



Orchestra: George, Bill, Harry, John and Mike Yuskow, 1924.

One day mother sent daughter Mary on foot to her Aunt's place west of Vegreville, a distance of 23 miles, to get some eggs for setting. While she stayed there for a week, her Uncle John Hradoway took her with him by oxen to break some land for the Basilian Fathers at the old Mundare Monastery in order that the Fathers could obtain title to their land. Horses and oxen were harnessed to a breaking plow. Mary guided the horses, Uncle John guided the oxen and another man guided the plow to do the breaking. At noon the Sisters (nuns) brought out a pail of sour milk and bread and, together with Father Filias and Brother Jarema, all had lunch on the furrows.

In the fall some barley was harvested; mother would fill a twenty-pound sugar bag with barley and young Mary walked to their closest neighbour and ground this barley into flour on a home-made stone mill. At those times the barley bread tasted very good. Later when there was a little wheat, the same procedure was repeated, only that the flour was sieved, the bran was used in baking bread and the white flour was saved for special occasions only. One day at that time, a neighbour, Mrs. Peter Steblyk, and Mother Anna Yuskow walked all the way to Mundare, a distance of twenty miles, to get some wheat for flour from the farmers who were a little better off. It took two days to bring back about a half-bushel each on their backs. Flour was made and was used to make pyrohy only.

The neighbours at New Kiew at the time were the families of Sam Kitz, Peter Steblyk, Dmetro Samoil and Steve Pauk.

At that time father Yuskow raised one steer and bought another one; together the steers were used for farming and transportation to the nearest town of Old Vegreville, a distance of twenty miles, till the time the town was moved to its present site in 1905.

At the very young age of thirteen, Mary went to work for four dollars a month in the Warwick and Old Vegreville districts; then in 1906 in the present town



William Yuskow, B.Sc. — 1931.

of Vegreville at the Queens Hotel (now Prince Edward Hotel). Mr. and Mrs. Shipley were the owners of the hotel.

The first New Kiew Ukrainian Catholic Service by Basilian Father Filias was celebrated at the home of Sam Kitz in July, 1903. There were seven children baptized the first day and seven more the next day. Two years later, 1905, the people in the district decided on construction of a church (Chapel of St. Nicholas) on Harry Sawchuk's S.E. 28-53-13-W4. Most of the church articles (altar, candle holders, crosses, picture frames, etc.) were hand-made by Mr. Nick Yakimetz. Mary Yuskow helped to plaster the walls in the church.

In the spring of 1903, all the men left their families and went to work to earn some money. Father came back home on Christmas Eve, brought a sack full of food, a few candies, a few useful gifts (clothes) for the family and stayed home till spring.

From 1905 life improved because there was enough cultivated land to plant some wheat, oats, barley and vegetables. For yeast, mother left a bit of dough in lukewarm water and started a new batch of bread.

In summer father would go out to clear some land by hand with a pick and axe. When enough was cleared, father and Mary would harness an oxen team and plow in the morning and late afternoon because it was impossible to control the oxen in the afternoon when they were bothered by flies, and would run into the nearest slough.

Father bought one mare and so raised his own horses used mainly for transportation and later for farm work.

In 1907 Mary Yuskow, age sixteen and a half, married a neighbor boy, Nick Chapelski, age nineteen, and lived at New Kiew for two years. Then they

bought a homestead N.E. 26-53-10-W4 three miles south of the hamlet of Beauvallon, lived there for fifty-three years; then in 1962 moved to Two Hills, and lived there for fourteen years. Both have passed away.

Five more children were born at New Kiew; two died in infancy and the three others are Harry, George and William. Father was very interested in sending his boys to school. Three boys attended High School. Fred, who was brought over as a baby, passed away at the age of eighteen during the 1918 influenza.

John operated the New Kiew Post Office for about twenty-five years until it was closed down. George and William graduated from the University of Alberta.

The youngest boy William was born February 2,



Vera and George Yuskow (Jr.) 1978.

1910. He started public school at age seven. He was very interested in books and read all the books in school available at the time. He finished his grade six, seven and eight in one year — 1924, then was first in class in grade nine and entered Vegreville High School the same year. He obtained his grade twelve High School Diploma in 1928. In his third year of High School, because of his great ability, he won the Alberta Bronze Medal in History in 1926-27 for very efficient study and knowledge of History, ranking fourth in the provincial standing. He also took a C.O.T.C. Course at U. of A. and qualified with the rank of Lieutenant Officer. In May 1931, he received his B. Sc. degree and passed away October 31, 1931.

George, second youngest in the family, started school at New Kiew, completed grade eight there, attended High School at Vegreville and the last year of High School at Edmonton Separate School. In 1930-31 he entered Normal School in Edmonton. After completion of Normal School he taught as follows: Stony Rapid School — 3 years; New Kiew School — 1 year; Buchach School — 9 years; Stony Rapid School again — 6 years; Hamburg School — 8 years; Buffalo Coulee School — 8 years; Vegreville St. Martins School — 8 years. He retired in 1972, but is still substituting in all Vegreville and Lavoy schools.

In 1949 George registered in the Faculty of Education at the U. of A. and received his B. Ed. in 1956 by attending Summer Schools, then enrolled in the Graduate Faculty and received his Graduate Diploma in Social Studies, thus completing five years of University education.

George got married in November, 1934, to Vera Chmilar of Morecambe. They have one son, William Gary, who is also a school teacher, at present teaching at McKernan School in Edmonton. He is married to Margaret Samoil of Lavoy who is also a teacher. They have one daughter, seven-year-old Krista.

After retiring from full-time teaching, George is keeping himself very busy. He belongs to various organizations, was a member of the Recreation Board for three years, and treasurer of the Holy Trinity Parish for four years. At the present, 1979, he is a member on the Library Board, President of the Holy Trinity Parish, Chairman of the Vegreville Christmas Bureau, Sec.-Treas. of the St. Nicholas Pioneer Cemetery at New Kiew, Treasurer of the Ukrainian Catholic Brotherhood of Vegreville and a member of the Vegreville Lions Club since 1968.

Harry Yuskow lives in Edmonton. John Yuskow and his wife Olga and son Laurence live in Edmonton and daughter Adeline lives in Toronto.

Mike Yuskow and sons Jack, Peter, Nick and

Walter all live in the New Kiew district, daughter Mary Nagy lives in Edmonton, and daughter Anne lives in the Plain Lake District.

George and wife Vera live in Vegreville, and son William and family live in Edmonton. George Junior still owns the homestead.

Yuskow Brothers' Orchestra

This was the first Orchestra organized in the New Kiew district. The brothers played at dances and weddings from 1916 to about 1928, and covered the large area from Vegreville all the way east to Myram.

John and Harry took music lessons in violin and dulcimer with the late Serink Brothers, John and Mike, of Chipman, Alberta.

Zaseybida, Emil and Kalyna (Lena)

by Anastasia E. Raven

Emil Zaseybida was born on August 19, 1894, in the village of Laniwtsi, county of Borshchiw, province of Halychyna, Ukraine, to Panko and Anastasia (nee Korpan) Zaseybida. The family arrived in Canada in 1902 and settled in the area later known as Borshchiw or Inland, Alberta. They joined a relative who had already settled there in 1898. Emil was the oldest in the family of three children. The others were John and Anne. Four daughters were later born in Canada: Mary, Katherine, Pearl and Olga.

Emil had attended school in the village for one year in the Old Country before coming to Canada. In Alberta he went to Leachville School of which his father was a trustee. After completing elementary school at Leachville, he went to Vegreville where he was the first Ukrainian to attend high school in that town. After completing grade twelve, he taught, "on permit", for several years. Then yielding to an urge to see the world, he left for the United States where he spent two years — years which he did not waste. Among other things, he attended college and received the equivalent of a year's university standing.

Returning to Alberta in 1918, Emil stayed at the M.H. Ukrainian Institute in Edmonton while attending the University of Alberta for one year. In 1919 he became acquainted with Kalyna Ruryk and they were married in the fall of that year.

Kalyna was born on July 7, 1902, to Nykolai and Olena (nee Triska) Ruryk in the village of Wolchkiwtse, county of Sniatyn, Halychyna. The family arrived in Canada in 1913. Kalyna completed village school in her native land before continuing her education in Canada. The family settled north of Royal Park in a district locally known as Sich (Seech). She went to school near her home and then went to the Ruthenian Home run by the Presbyterian



Mrs. Kalena (Lena) Zaseybida, 1964.



Emil Zaseybida, 1964.

Kalyna's service to Ukrainian choral music. She had the voice and talent for it.

Emil began farming in the Vegreville district in 1921. At the same time he became interested and involved in politics. This was the time of a strong farmers' movement in the political field — the United Farmers of Alberta. Emil attended all the political conventions in the Vegreville constituency and electioneered for Archie Matheson in the campaign of 1921. He was also a strong supporter of the Wheat Pool, a member of which he was for fifty years.

On May 5, 1924, Emil was appointed manager of the liquor store in Vegreville by the Alberta Liquor Control Board, and he and Kalyna had to take up residence in that town. However, Emil not only kept his land but expanded his operations, to include in time a whole section of land. He was first in the district to cultivate his land with power equipment and to own an automobile in 1913.

In Vegreville Kalyna took an active part in cultural activities as she had done in the schools where Emil taught. Her main work was in drama and music, in the preparation of plays and concerts with adults and children. Emil, on his part, became deeply involved in the building committee with Peter Svarich and William Kieryluk.

Emil also served as treasurer for twelve years, with responsibility for paying the bills and collecting funds for the building — a responsibility made the more frustrating because of the financial difficulties during the depression years of the thirties.

It was in her association with the church that Kalyna showed her real ability. She inspired the organization of a Vegreville chapter of the Ukrainian Women's Organization of Canada in conjunction with the church. Under her leadership, this enterprising group of women became the prime movers in the revival of Ukrainian cultural and religious activities in Vegreville. Their main task was the enlightenment of Ukrainian women through purposeful activity. To this end they set to work to raise funds for the church which was then in the process of construction. Kalyna held the position of president of the chapter for five years and served another nine as secretary. To prepare the young for their future tasks, she taught Ukrainian classes (Saturdays) and Sunday School. She was also a member, and usually the conductor, of the Ukrainian Orthodox church choir and other choral groups. During World War II, she played an important role in popularizing the Red Cross among her compatriots and inspiring them to loyal service in its cause.

Emil and Kalyna lived in Vegreville until 1951. When Emil was transferred to Edmonton where he was manager, successively, of three stores of the

church in Vegreville where she completed grade eleven. She worked for a time at the National Co-operative store before she married Emil.

For a short time after their marriage, Emil and Kalyna had charge of Togo School where Emil taught the regular classes and Kalyna taught singing and prepared concerts in Ukrainian. Both loved and were good at this kind of work. This was the beginning of

Alberta Liquor Board until his retirement on August 19, 1959. Though Emil was a member of St. John's Cathedral parish in Edmonton and participated in church activities as time permitted, Kalyna became involved from the very beginning. She was elected president of the Ukrainian Women's Organization and held that office for three years at a critical time when the auditorium of St. John's Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral parish was being built to provide accommodation for expanding Ukrainian classes and Sunday School. She was elected president of the provincial executive of the same body. During this period, she devoted much of her time to teaching Ukrainian embroidery and painting Easter eggs to the young people of the parish. She was also a member of St. John's Benevolent Society whose members visit hospitals, senior citizens, and nursing homes. Besides these many duties, she sang in the church choir. She was devoted to Ukrainian song and music, both religious and secular, and was dedicated to its development to the end of her days. Her death in April 26, 1973, was a great shock to her husband and a great loss to the community.

In all the years that Emil resided in Vegreville and Edmonton, he retained his interest in his farms which, for a good part of the time, son Walter managed and operated. Emil sold the land in 1972 but retained his financial interests in the town of Vegreville.

Emil and Kalyna gave generous support to many Ukrainian organizations: St. Andrew's College in Winnipeg, the Church of St. Volodymir in Vegreville, St. John's Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral, and St. John's Institute in Edmonton, just to name a few.

The Zaseybidas also had three daughters: Anastasia, married Fred Raven, living in Edmonton; Emily Mahon in West Vancouver; Angeline Fodchuk is in Vancouver.

Mrs. Zaseybida died in April, 1973, and Mr. Zaseybida died in August, 1974. Walter passed away in May, 1979.

Zaseybida, Panko

submitted by Anastasia E. Raven

Panko Zaseybida arrived in Canada with his wife, Anastasia, and her father, Dmytro Korpan, in 1902. They settled near Dmytro's brother, Mykhailo, who had come to Canada in 1898. In this area, which was later named Borshchiw, ten miles from Old Vegreville, many other fellow villagers had already taken up homesteads. Like them, Panko was a native of Laniwtsi, county of Borshchiw, province of Halychyna, Ukraine. He was born in 1867 and died in 1952. Anastasia was born in 1876 and died in 1929.

At the time of their arrival, there were three children in the Zaseybida family: Emil, John, and Anne. Four daughters were later born in Canada: Mary, Katherine, Pearl, and Olga.

The first years in Canada were hard, but the average cultural level of the members of the community was comparatively high. Immediately after their arrival, the settlers organized a parish and built a church which was served by the Basilian Fathers from Mundare. Soon after, they built a school and formed a cultural society which they named "Prosvita" — the name of similar organizations which were common in the Old Country. Following this, they erected a National Home and the community became famous for its cultural achievements.

But their interest was not directed entirely towards the perpetuation of a way of life brought from the homeland. They knew that they had come to a new land with new ways and new ideas, and that they would have to fit into them sooner or later. Panko's brother-in-law, Tymko Goshko, knew this and, soon after establishing himself in the district, obtained permission to open and operate a post-office which he managed for many years. Panko was the first chairman of the public school (Leachville) organized in 1904.

The two leaders in all these efforts were the two brothers-in-law, Panko Zaseybida and Tymko Goshko. Under their leadership the community supported all movements which might benefit the community whether it was a farmers' organization, the National Co-operative (retail store) in Vegreville, or the Self-Reliance League. They were supporters and members of the two institutes, the Ukrainian Voice, and they donated freely to all efforts in aid of their homeland. Both of them were very frugal in their personal lives, but they were most generous in their contributions to national and religious causes. Though economic conditions at the time were difficult, both of them were the first Ukrainians in Canada to donate a thousand dollars each to the Mohyla Institute in Saskatoon, the first educational institution in Western Canada.

Panko Zaseybida was an eloquent speaker and took part in many conventions of the Ukraine Self-Reliance League and assemblies of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church. A parish of that church was formed in Inland, but the members joined the Vegreville parish because of the small number of members in the rural district.

It is not surprising then to know that he and Tymko were founders of the P. Mohyla Institute of Saskatoon. Almost religiously, they attended all the conventions which brought like-minded people together to talk over, and take action in, affairs which

would make the Ukrainian new-comer to Canada a better man and a good Canadian citizen.

Deeply religious though he was, Panko was among the foremost of those who rejected the authoritarian attitude of the Catholic church and spearheaded the movement to break away from the Basilian Fathers and organize a Ukrainian Orthodox parish in the community. Before his death he donated one hundred dollars to each of the Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedrals in Winnipeg and Edmonton, and to the church in Vegreville.

Panko and Anastasia had two sons and five daughters. The surviving members of this family are Mrs. Mary Pauk of Vernon, and Mrs. Katherine Kalody of Los Angeles.

May his memory remain an inspiration for many years — to his children, descendants, and his countrymen.



South Edmonton (Strathcona), about 1907-08.

Ziegler, Alex and Dora by Alex Ziegler

I was born May 22, 1910 in Spruce Grove, and attended school at St. John. I got married on April 4, 1934, to Dora Baron, born in Stony Plain September 6, 1912.

We moved to Vegreville in April 1934. I had been in Vegreville in 1914 when Will Ferguson was breaking the section 9-53-15. My mother and dad lived in a big tent for about a month till they built a couple of small buildings. Then I was here again in 1920. In 1927 I came to help my brother George Ziegler break land for my brother John. In 1928 Dad bought another section of land eight miles southeast of Vegreville called "The Ranch." George and Bill Ziegler along with myself cut the brush and broke the land in 1928-29.

The late George Ziegler, my brother, and I, put the land into wheat in 1930, and we were hailed out



Alex Ziegler moving farm machinery through Edmonton, 1930.



Alex Ziegler hauling grain to the Vegreville Wheat Pool Elevator, with his Caterpillar Tractor, 1933.



Bill and Alex Ziegler broke up this section 8 miles south-east of Vegreville that their dad Amiel Ziegler bought in 1927. Used their 2 McCormick-Deering 15-30's, one on the brush cutter and one on the breaking plough.

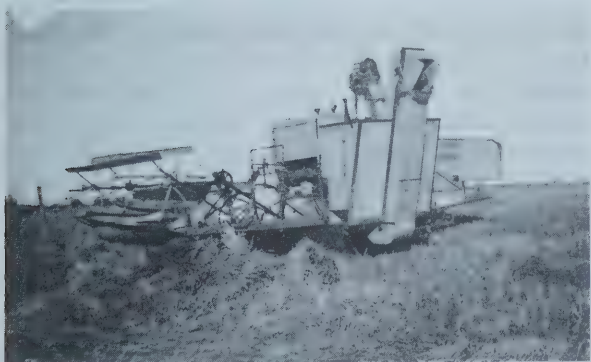
100%. We farmed it together for another year, and then I farmed it alone till 1938, when I moved to Spruce Grove, and in 1943 Bill moved to Vegreville.

We raised four children. Jack and Audrey were the children of Dora's sister Martha, the late Mrs. Wm. Ziegler, who passed away in May, 1938.

Jack was born January 16, 1932. He resides in Alix. His wife is the former Betty McNallie. Betty passed away this summer in June of 1979. They had two children, Catherine who is working at one of the banks in Edmonton, and Tom who is going to the University in Edmonton. Jack works at the Chevron Standard Gas Plant at Alix.



Alex Ziegler built this well-drilling outfit and used it successfully. 1939.



Alex Ziegler bought this combine from Mark Kitto in Vegreville in 1930 — used it on Section 23-15-14-W4 that was always called the Ranch. He later moved it up to his home place in Winterburn in 1941, and since then it has been moved to the Fort Saskatchewan Museum.

Audrey was born November, 1936, and went to school at St. John, Spruce Grove and Stony Plain, and took her training for a Lab Technologist at the Royal Alex Hospital in Edmonton. She married William Cheresnuik July 13, 1956. They have two boys, Michael in Edmonton, and Rodney who is going to University in Calgary.

Robert was born June 9, 1943. He got his education in Spruce Grove and Stony Plain. On April 16, 1966, he married Louise Stecyk. They lived in Vancouver from 1966-78. They moved back to Edmonton and both work for Mainland Crystal Glass. They have two children, Denise born June 8, 1967, and Michelle born September 19, 1969.

Jean was born February 24, 1947. She married Donald Woodhouse. They have two children, Kelly Ann born July 14, 1966, and Kimberly Susan born November 17, 1968. Jean and Don live on the home farm here in Spruce Grove and have a construction business.

In 1955 I was elected delegate to the Alberta Wheat Pool. My brother George Ziegler was elected in 1947. I was delegate for twenty-four years. It was the first time that two brothers were delegates at the same time in the Alberta Wheat Pool. In 1975 we received an Edmonton Exhibition Association Alberta Farm Family Award. We went to the Canadian Plowing Match in Fredericton, New Brunswick, on September 21 and 22, 1979. Doug Mar from Brooks, Alberta, won second prize and he is going to New Zealand in May of 1980.

Ziegler, Amiel and Barbara by Elizabeth (Ziegler) Lowe

Amiel Ziegler was born in Elmira, Ontario, on August 23, 1866, and passed away September 29, 1929.

He met my mother, Barbara Hodel, in Elmira, Ontario, and they were married there on February 11, 1890. My mother was one of 5 daughters of George and Eva Hodel who came from Germany to Ontario, Canada, in 1874, with their 5 daughters — Christina, Lena, Barbara, Katherine and Annie. My mother, Barbara, was born in Grumbach, Germany, on January 6, 1869, and passed away March 17, 1917.

They heard a lot about “Go West, Young Man, Go West” and they decided to come, and their first stop was in Calgary in 1890. That was as far as the train came at that time. When my Dad decided to come West, my mother’s parents then planned to come with them.

My dad bought a team of horses in Calgary and a wagon, and with his father-in-law, George Hodel, they bought supplies and drove up to Edmonton to find land (homesteads). After a trip to the land office



Amiel and Barbara Ziegler while on a visit to Elmira, Ontario, 1910. They were married in February, 1890, and had gone from Spruce Grove to renew acquaintances in the East.



Wedding picture of Amiel Ziegler and Barbara Hodel, in Elmira, Ontario, Feb. 11, 1890. Joseph Suder — bestman and Katherine Hodel — the bride's sister as bridesmaid. The couple on the left are the bride and groom.

(just a shack on what is now Jasper Avenue), they were told that there were homesteads to be had west of Edmonton, but homesteads were being picked up fast and they better get out there! There had been rain and some were too heavily loaded with all their things so it was hard going. Dad didn't have much on his wagon and says he made it slow but sure. He tells us how he was nearly turning back. I still remember the heavy bush between our home (15 miles west of Edmonton) and the city. Folks did get bogged down as there seemed to be no bottom (then we called it the swamp), but Dad made it through and they were able to take up a section of land near Spruce Grove.

They went back to Edmonton to file on it and drove back to Calgary. It took a long time. It was getting on in the fall and, as there were no roads to speak of, they travelled miles around lakes and heavily-wooded spots. It took days to go home to Calgary — he tells us he walked most of the way. It was getting so cold. Grandpa had to ride as he wasn't as able to walk, so he was wrapped in two horse blankets and bedding they had with them. There were a few stopping-places and large camps of working gangs laying the railroad to Edmonton.

At that time the West Government wasn't getting any support from the Federal Government as they decided that west of Winnipeg was where Canada ended. When they finally got to Calgary, again the Government still decided it was a waste of time and money to go any further with the railroad and it was certainly too mountainous to get to Vancouver. It would always have to depend on boats and ships to get there or on horses or walking. Old-timers who had to get out and look for meat would have to walk miles and miles, and they said laying tracks to the West Coast could be done but the officials the Government sent from the East took back reports that it could never be done, that wheat would never grow (the season's too short) and that the country held no future. The Government would just be throwing their money away — just to forget it. But these pioneers who saw no future in the East were coming West with little or no money and couldn't turn back; they had to make the best of it.



Breaking land with a Case steam engine and 7 ploughs, in Park Grove district. Alex and Bill Ziegler on the plough and Will Ferguson on the engine, 1914.

The land around Calgary they found to be good for ranching, and further north to Edmonton they found good land to raise wheat and grain and good gardens. The Calgarians called the winding road that wagon trains, ox trains, stagecoaches and horseback riders all followed to Edmonton, fording streams, by-passing sloughs, avoiding hills, "The Calgary Trail". A man, a wagon master and a big man, who freighted back and forth from Calgary to Edmonton, shortened the Calgary Trail with every trip he made. He decided the train could get through and he picked up a crew and started the trail and more joined him to put down a track. By that time they had a strong representation to let the Government in the East know they meant business and the first train pulled into Strathcona in 1891.

The High Level Bridge was built much later and wasn't opened to traffic until 1913. There was a heated dispute between Edmonton and Strathcona about who was to pay and how much. Edmonton was by far the largest and the bridge was really built for Edmonton which would gain by it, where Strathcona was just a little stopping-place. It was all finished and barricaded until they could come to a satisfactory agreement. On the southside a university was built at that time and for the students' initiation they were to take down the barricades and march over it, going east down Jasper Avenue and back. Then they were to stop in at the Parliament Buildings on ninth street and march in and around and out over the bridge and back to the University. They marched down to first street, and back to ninth where the Parliament Buildings were and the High Level Bridge was on 9th, too. The barricades were never put up again. It is a well-built two-decker bridge with 3 tracks on top — the two outer ones for the streetcars and the center for the train; down below is where the traffic went. Everything really boomed from that time on. Railroads were built all over. There was the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway, the Canadian Pacific and the Canadian Northern Railroads. They were all in competition

with each other and all tried to be the first into any progressive towns that were springing up all over. The C.P.R. built from Calgary to Edmonton and I remember well when the G.T.P. and the C.N.R. started building railroads west of Edmonton. There was a race to get to the West Coast, and close to Vancouver you can see where one track runs south of the Fraser Canyon and the other north of it; neck in neck, they worked — each trying to outdo the other.

The Canadian Pacific Railroad was the first to reach Vancouver from Calgary. The C.N.R. and G.T.P. sprang up overnight when they knew they had the connection between Calgary and Edmonton. The C.N.R. and G.T.P. came into Edmonton from the East before 1909, coming through Saskatoon, Lloydminster, Vermilion, Vegreville to Edmonton, through good farming land that really opened up the West.

Our school was right on the baseline that is now known as Highway 16, and I remember well the homesteaders passing the school and seeing wagonloads going past with cattle in the rear and horseback riders and some walking with a dog or two in tow; and telling us they were going on up to Peace River. In fact, they had signs on their wagons — "Peace River or bust."

My Dad and Grandpa came up to the homesteads, their second trip, and as the homesteads were heavily-wooded, they cleared the land, saving the large trees for logs to build a house and barn. Then they sent for the family who were waiting in Calgary.

In 1894, they came up by train to Strathcona. The four quarters were divided between Grandparents — Dad and Mother's two sisters — Katie and Annie. They worked hard and built more buildings on each quarter and did the acres of clearing heavy bush and breaking; and raising large families. The first crop was broadcast by hand, walking up and down (on the newly-broken and worked land). The seed was thrown in a circular motion.

Dad bought the first McCormick Deering binder (horse-drawn) west of Edmonton, and he cut the crops for any farmer close around his place. There were other binders around but the McCormick dealership has this on record and a dealer from Edmonton gave me this information. He also got a seed drill, the first in the family. They all worked together and helped one another.

The fall of 1901, they had a terrible hail storm. It wiped them all out. Dad decided to get more land at that time and he bought a half-section out on the baseline, later known as Highway 16 (much later!) There was better land out along the baseline but it wasn't homestead land. It was up for sale but not many had the cash to buy it. As soon as my dad was

able, he sold the homestead and bought the half-section, 15 miles west of the Edmonton Post Office.

Edmonton, at that time, was just a town with board sidewalks and muddy or dusty streets, but growing rapidly. There were no roads to speak of — just trails — and as I look back, I just cannot believe how everything progressed so rapidly. A little town sprang up just one-half mile north of our place on the north side of the baseline and was called Spruce Grove Center. Soon after this, in 1905, Alberta became a province. My Uncle, John McPherson, was one of the first Members of Parliament for our province and through his efforts a school was built in 1908, just one-half mile north of our farm, on the baseline and one-quarter mile east of Spruce Grove Center. There was a store at Spruce Grove Center that I shall never forget (so many good things we could buy!) where we usually got a bag of candy and we bought coal oil for our lamps in a gallon can with a spout on it, and the storekeepers used to put a gum drop on it to keep it from spilling.

There was also a hotel, a livery barn, a blacksmith shop, a poolroom that also had a barber chair in the front part, and seven little one-roomed shacks that were rented out. One of these shacks was used as a schoolroom while the new school was being built.

The school was a two-storey building with a hall upstairs where we used to have dances, hold our school concerts, put on plays with local talent, and have box socials in aid of the Red Cross during the first World War.



Amiel Ziegler bought a section of land near Vegreville in 1913 and in the spring of 1914 he and his wife Barbara and a friend carpenter (near tent door) built a little place known — still after all these years, as "Do Drop In" — and later a barn and several granaries.

I remember Mrs. Nellie McClung coming out there to give us a talk; parents came and the hall was crowded. We had a large stage and dressing rooms on either side and a roll-up curtain. On the curtain was an oil painting by Mrs. Race, the Indian agent's wife, who was just out from England and was a very good actress and enjoyed helping our teacher, Mrs. Clark, who was also from England.

Mrs. Clark taught in this school from 1912 to 1915. This hall was also used for Church Services and meetings, etc., by the community. I remember the minister used to drive around with a horse and buggy and was often at our place for a night or two. The dances I can remember well. We had a blind old man who used to come out from Edmonton on the C.N.R. train, stay overnight at the hotel and go back on the train the next day. All he asked was \$5.00 and he played from 8 to 2 or 3 in the morning. Later we got a neighbor to play and he played the harmonica. He made a wire to put around his neck and it was fastened to each end of the harmonica so he could play it and chord on the piano at the same time. When I used to chord for him, he would hold the harmonica up to his mouth and really play. We had such good times, not a drop to drink; the boys paid 35¢ and with that money the music was paid (\$5.00), and the hall (\$5.00) and the lunch was bought and was free to the folks that came. They always had a floor manager those days, and in my time, Jack, my husband-to-be, was the floor manager. He would collect when lunch was served and would pay the bills and buy the coffee, cream and sugar, and the sandwich-makings. Some of us always brought cake. There were so many different dances — waltz, one-step, 2-step, 3-step, 7-step, schottisch, heel and toe polka, French minuet, rye waltz, and waltz quadrille.

It may be interesting to note that when the school was built, all the fifteen pupils were cousins: Ann McNab, John McPherson, George McPherson, Angus McPherson, Lena Suder, George Suder, Annie Suder, John Suder and Katie Suder. From the Ziegler Family there was Henry, Emilie, John, Christine, Betty and George. The mothers were all Hodel daughters — Christina, Katie, and my mother, Barbara.

My Dad was one of the first three trustees. Our first teacher was a local girl, Gerty Atkinson. Her brother, Bert, was the storekeeper in Spruce Grove Center. On the mainstreet of this little town was first the Royal Hotel, built in 1906, managed by Harry Gobae and his sister, Angie, with kitchen help. It did a good business until prohibition came in force in June, 1916. The manager soon closed its doors and boarded up the windows, and sold it to Mr. Secord in 1919; then he bought Mr. Lacert's farm. The new

owner filled it with oats, later dismantled it, and moved it away. Next to it was the livery barn and three little one-roomed houses; then to the right of the Main Street going north, was first a large store with a post office in the back, and a large storage room. It was built in 1903. Bert Atkinson ran the store. He came to Alberta with his widowed mother and three sisters, Annie, Ella and Gerty. They lived in a large house just across the baseline to the south of the store.

Going north from the store was the blacksmith shop and Dan Minchim was the blacksmith. Then two more small houses, with clotheslines and a path in back.

In the next street was a poolroom and a barber shop, run by Harry Abbott, and two more shacks. These small dwellings were homes for many different families. It seems that so many towns just sprang up overnight and to incorporate them into a village they had to have a hotel, store and post office in the back of the store, etc., and so many dwelling places. So the town built those shacks and when the town folded up in 1919, neighbors bought the buildings and moved them away.

Spruce Grove, a town about three miles west, was an older town which survived. At the time of writing, it has a population of over 8000 and is growing rapidly.

Stony Plain is the next town west and just these last years it has also grown steadily.

The Canadian Northern Railway built a branch line west of Edmonton to Stony Plain in 1903, and built a siding, with station, and the Gillespie Elevator just a quarter of a mile south of Spruce Grove Center. The town had high hopes and we were sure they would spread out to the station. There were no trucks to deliver supplies at that time; most of the freight was shipped by rail or freight wagons pulled by horses or mules. My Dad and brother, Henry, used to deliver supplies to the town with a team and flat rack. Finally, in the early thirties, the St. John School was closed and moved to a farm just east of there. J. Hadly bought it for a sheep shed, of all things.

In the early thirties, we had a school teacher, Mr. Aberhardt, for Premier here in Alberta. The first thing he did was to consolidate all the country schools into large divisions and had the pupils bussed in to the towns from the country. He brought in Social Credit with a bang in 1935 by promising everybody \$25.00 a month, just like that! Many believed him; they never stopped to think where the \$25.00 would come from.

We were all struggling along in the depression in the thirties, known as the "dirty thirties". Money was very scarce. For the first time there was welfare.

We never heard of it before. We never got it, but a lot of towns and cities were getting it and were able to live better than we did. This depression started in September, 1929. It happened just overnight. One day they had lots of money, the next day, nothing. Many committed suicide — they couldn't take it. We were just getting started nicely on our farm and that depression just set us back ten years.

I was Secretary-Treasurer for our school and district; we had a two-roomed school known as Vermilion School District. The first school was still in use and was built in 1903 and known as the Ryan School named after neighbors that owned the land the school was built on. Later it was changed to Vermilion, which was very confusing. It was just six miles west of Vegreville and the town of Vermilion was sixty miles east of Vegreville. Many times our mail went to Vermilion by mistake and several times it was sent to Vegreville, Quebec, but it usually made it — eventually. No one seemed to know or remember just why it was changed to Vermilion.

My Dad's first car was a Reo, bought in 1914. Later he got a Brisco. I can remember the name of a few more that were some of the first cars out: Chandler, Star, Overland, Flanders, Model T. Ford, Chevrolet, Dodge, Maxwell, Gray Dort, Star, Essex, etc. Some pet names of their cars were Leaping Lena, Red Baby, Old Faithful, Green Heeler, Tin Lizzy, The Bug, etc. The first car I ever saw was in 1910 and until 1924 never heard of a sedan or coupe or cars. Now they are four-door and two-door cars. The old-timers were open cars and had a top to put up and side curtains to snap on, flapping in the wind when snaps didn't hold; no windshield wipers, had running boards that you could step on to get into the car (I often wondered why they were called running boards!), headlights that stuck out in front a foot or so, a gearshift you could find without any trouble in the middle of the floor in the front of the seat. It was very tricky too! You had to push in a clutch with your left foot off — on — off — on to high and any one ripping those gears was frowned on and even yelled at by good drivers! I was very fortunate to have my husband teach me to drive — before — we — were — married! There were no trunks on the cars either. Parcels and suitcases were tied on the front fenders, resting on the running board, and the smaller parcels were placed around your feet in the back seat. The front seat had to be kept clear with all the she-nanigans you had to go through to even get it started. There were no self-starters but it did have a manual choke that was very sensitive; that had to be manipulated with care by the drivers, and there again would be a few words — choice words — from the driver and also the man who was cranking the engine to start

it. Yes! It had a crank and if the choke wasn't set just right, it would kick back the crank and has been known to break an arm. The crank was thrown into the car until needed again. The gas tank was under the front seat. There again, both driver and passenger in the front seat had to get out, take the cushion out and lean it on the car, then open a screw tap. It would hold from seven to ten gallons of gas and those cars only used about one gallon of gas to go thirty miles or so. Gas was 15¢ to 25¢ a gallon in 1913. Speed would be thirty miles an hour and maybe forty but up towards fifty you were really speeding. We didn't have speed cops then; you drove at your own risk or anyone else's on the road! We didn't have highways, just trails and roads, which were quite narrow. Horses were scared and very often when the driver saw a car coming, he would tie up the lines and quickly jump out to grab his horses by their bridles. Sometimes the horses would rear up, knock down the driver and run over him — more scared than hurt — and without a language problem!

There was no choice of colors in buying a car — they came in three colors: black, black, and black. The earlier settlers started out with horses. They were used for field work. There were work horses and drivers. The more prosperous could afford to feed and look after the drivers, and keep them looking sleek and trim. Every town used to have a livery stable where they had these drivers and a nice top buggy to drive doctors, government men, etc., out in the country, in sickness and in health, as the case may be.

When farmers came to town they would put up their team in a livery barn. The barns were always close up town and some were right on Main Street. They were always kept real clean.

In the wintertime, we used cutters and sleighs and the teams were decked out with bells, all kinds of bells, the more the merrier! There was always a pleasant rivalry among the young men to see who could have the most bells on their team. On a still, frosty, cold night they could be heard for miles. I remember going to Christmas concerts and to dances when there would be several sleighs, and when we were near the place of entertainment there would be five or six sleigh loads all quite close together and we could hear all the bells! The hayrides were a lot of fun too! Our young folks of today are missing a lot with their fast cars. They try out their cars and before they know it there is an accident. Most are always in a hurry, and can't get the enjoyment out of just living the way we did years ago. I do think we had an advantage over the recent time. We had larger families, not as much money, but enough for a comfortable living. As I remember, we never went hungry.



The family of Amiel Ziegler, all of whom lived in the Vegreville area at one time or another. 1955. Back row (l. to r.) — Henry, Bill, George, Alex, John. Front row (l. to r.) — Betty Lowe, Barbara Ferguson, Emily McMaster.

On one of my Dad's trips into Edmonton in 1901, with the wagon, he brought out an organ. We boarded the school teacher at that time and she said to Dad, "If you buy an organ, I will give your girls music lessons." What pleasure we had in winter evenings around that organ, with sing-songs. We even had family get-togethers and parties with the occasional dancing. My oldest brother, Henry, could play the mouth organ and I would chord on the organ. We didn't have a radio or a phonograph (a record player).

There were eleven of us in our family — six boys — Henry, John, George, Bill, Burton and Alex, and five girls — Eva, Barbara, Emilie, Christine and Elizabeth (Mrs. John Lowe). Eva and Burton passed away as babies.

We lived on our quarter-section homestead until 1901. With a family of six, my dad decided to look for more land and in the summer of 1900 he sold the homestead and bought a half-section just one-half mile south of the baseline. His family kept on growing and by 1912, he decided to look for more land. In those days the older children didn't leave home and the parent didn't encourage it either — lots couldn't afford to send their children on to high school. Our own country school, at that time, just taught up to Grade 8. You went to Edmonton to write your Grade 8 exam. There were no school buses; in fact, no buses in the city either. There were street cars with street car conductors, with a track like the railroad tracks, down the middle of the street. You paid 10¢ for adults and 5¢ for children six years and older, up to students.

You could also buy a real large chocolate bar for only 5¢ in 1913.



Henry Ziegler, Amiel Ziegler's father, and his 4 daughters. (L. to r.) — Mary, Rose, Katherine, Julia. Taken in Ont., 1883.

Back to my Dad. He then went up to the Peace River Country in 1912. He went up to Edson on a stage driven by horses, then hired a saddle horse and went across country with a pack and train of horses, and a few family settlers in covered wagons. There were no railroads to the north country at this time. It

was very hard travelling — it wasn't just bush — it was swampy with creeks and rivers to cross. When my dad eventually got up there, he didn't look — he just turned around and came back, saying there must be land closer to home than that, and that he could get there without all the hardship these families endured. He wanted land closer to the railroad but didn't see any good land between Spruce Grove and Edson that wasn't taken up, so he decided to go east and he came to Vegreville in 1913, and looked around and bought a section of land in the Park Grove District (9 - 53 - 15 - W4); just about a four-mile drive from a C.N.R. train siding with an elevator and eight miles northwest of Vegreville. The way we had to come at that time — around the country road and through a pasture, a winding trail, etc.! It was shortened about two miles with the new highway that was built across country in 1939. Just gravelled . . . and we were happy to have that! It was paved much later.



George and Eva Hodel and 5 daughters who left Germany in 1878.

(L. to r.) — Christina McPherson, Barbara Ziegler, Lena Gitzel, Katherine Suder, Annie Schell. Picture at Spruce Grove, Alberta, 1908. The brick home belongs to John McPherson, one of the Members of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta's first government in 1905. The Hodel family came to Alberta in 1890 and took up homesteads in the Spruce Grove area.

In 1914, my parents and a carpenter friend came down from Spruce Grove to build some buildings on this raw land. There was hardly any bush on it. My dad and the carpenter drove down in a wagon loaded down with their supplies: a tent, camp stove, bed, bedding, dishes, clothes, etc. It took two good days to come down. My mother came by train later. They built a little shack that still stands today (1979) and it is still called "Do Drop In". There was a granary pulled up to it later and still another, but we had many happy times in that place. All the Zieglers lived in

that place at one time or another. We enjoyed such good neighbors as the Eickmeyers, later the Zalizniaks, the Freemans, and the Camerons. Further up the road were the Witzets, Parkers, Salaman-dicks, and Woods. South from us were McCleerys and the Meyers family, Scritsmiers, Robert Wilsons, Davis's, Dakes and later the Sanfords, Fullers, Dewarts, Handys, Cunninghams, Campbells, Lupuls, Kittos, Trimble, Lairds, Triskas, Worths, Nickolsons, Jennings, Shaws and Schultz's.

Soon after my Dad had his family moved out from the homestead to our home, he built another house over on our back quarter and a large granary and a stable. He had my mother's father and mother move in there. They had quite a large house upstairs and downstairs and it was always a treat to sleep at Grandmas — she always had a warm feather tick in each bed. We had hard mattresses in our home. My Grandmother was just the dearest soul — she always wore a little cap on her head; an everyday one was made of white flannelette and she had a real nice lacy one (white or black) for Sunday and visiting. She always had plain clothes for everyday and a little better for Sunday and holidays. She nearly always wore an apron. They were large aprons with no bib — as she said she could pick up chips to start a quick fire in her stove or to gather the eggs, and also, to wipe her hands on. I remember when I was five I would think when I get to be a Grandmother, I would wear a large apron like hers so I could wipe my hands on it!

Another thing I would like to mention here is when I started to go to school; my first teacher, Miss Atkinson, wore black skirts, not too plain, had braid sewn on for trim and little and big pleats. She wore white blouses — real dainty, and then she wore a leather belt to put her watch in, that hung on a chain around her neck and it had a wee slide on the two chains to keep them together in front. I mention the slide as she would play with it as she taught — just slide it up and down. I thought that was very smart to do — neat — and I again had dreams about being a teacher. When I was alone — no one around — I would pretend I was a teacher and I would go through the motions of this watch and chain business. I just couldn't wait to grow up! I think most of us go through that stage.

Time drags until you are seventeen and by then you should have all your troubles because you know everything! . . . but everything! We feel our parents are surely not very bright, but as you grow older you find out very quickly how little you really know at seventeen — and I am seventy-seven and I am still learning!

Meanwhile, back to my Grandma's home. Their

home was just beside a ravine, a gully we called it — a great sleigh-riding hill. So many times we were there for our sleigh-riding parties. Grandma always had buns, rolls, or cinnamon rolls and hot coffee for all of us. They had an old black dog named Gip. He always followed Grandpa around but never Grandma. She walked too fast for him. Grandpa was more his speed.

Grandma never walked — she ran. Come to think of it, she never even sat down through the day. When anyone came, she was fussing around and feeding them all the time they were there. I never heard her gossip; she would never sit down long enough for the company to tell her any gossip. What she had to say was always the plain truth in no uncertain terms and sometimes it hurt! She talked with her hands mostly and I remember her explaining something to Grandpa and he would sit there and chuckle — and sometimes it wasn't so funny and then there would be more waving of arms and her favorite saying was — as she was waving her apron up and down — “Goot in Himel!” “So gates in daravelt” “Auch do Leibe Zite!!” Everyone loved her and her grandchildren idolized her.

Their home was struck by lightning twice and the second time she told my Dad she wanted to leave that house and he hooked up the team to a hayrack and they loaded up all their belongings and he brought them home to our place, where they stayed until her death on November 12, 1918. We were all down with the flu, and I am sure that she wore herself out looking after all of us, in her seventy-second year. Grandpa and my Dad and my sister Crissie never had the flu, but the rest of us were all down. Grandpa was taken to the home of a daughter, Kate Suder, where he stayed until he passed away in October, 1931, at the age of ninety-one. His mind was clear to the last.

Meanwhile, back to my parents. My mother's health was failing. She went to a doctor in Stony Plain and she always came home with a box with three or four different kinds of pills and she was still failing. On her last trip to that doctor, he sent her home with a leather-made stuffed thing just the shape of a kidney with instructions to put a 6-inch wide bandage around her and bandage this artificial kidney in place where a kidney was supposed to be and see if that would help her. Well! That was the last straw! My dad sent her to a doctor in Edmonton and he took her right to the hospital. He operated on her in September, 1916. She had a floating kidney that was causing all her pain and it was left too long and cancer had set in. She passed away in March, 1917. All through this, Grandma looked after us at home. After the crop was threshed in the fall, my dad rented a house in town. The doctor told him mother wanted

to go home, but he advised them to get a place in town so he could look after her, and she could be home as she could be up and around for a while. She spent her last Christmas (1916) on the farm with all the family and then back to town. Dad and his two oldest daughters, Barbara and Emily, stayed with her until she passed away.

The First World War was on all this time (1914-1918) and then the flu in 1918. When the Armistice was signed on November 11, we were all down with the flu. They set up temporary stations in all the school houses for any woman or girl that could come. They would leave their homes and stay there night and day to be on call to go to any home in an emergency, and stay there for a day or two, then be relieved by someone else. They called for cars and good drivers and Jack Lowe, my future husband, volunteered as one of them. He would tell us of all the hazardous trips he had to make in some far-off place on cold winter nights, looking for places he had never seen before. He drove a new 1917 Chev family car. It was the worst from October to December, 1918. Then it seemed to be bad again in April and May of 1919. It was very contagious and we were all warned to wear masks when we had to go out, or into a store, etc. We ordered our supplies and they were delivered to our door, by neighbors that were still mobile. A lot never made it . . .

November 11, 1918, when the Armistice was signed and the First World War ended, after four years, we were all in bed with the flu, but my Dad and sister Christine. We were all very thankful that at last it was over.

In the spring of 1920, my oldest brother Henry and his wife Aggie and their first little one, Jennette, moved down to Vegreville to take over Section 9 in the Park Grove District and moved into "Do Drop In".

My sister, Barbara Ferguson and family moved into Vegreville where her husband took over the Case Agency.

Emilie married Bob McMaster. They had three children — George, Winnie and Bob.

John married Irene Cunningham and they have three girls — Genevieve, Marguerite and Lillian.

Christine married Carl Rudd and had no family. They lived in Modesto, California.

Betty married Jack Lowe and they have lived in the Vegreville area for the past 60 years. They have two girls — Dorothy and Elizabeth.

George married Edna Lowe. They had six children — Claire, Lois, Lorraine, Elgin, David and Lloyd.

Bill Ziegler married Martha Baron and they had two children — Jack and Audrey. Martha passed

away in 1938 and later he married Jessie French; they had two boys — Charles and Bryce.

Alex married Dora Baron and they had Robert and Jean.

Ziegler, Arden and Holley

by Holley Ziegler

Arden was born on August 20, 1952 and was Gordon and Edna Ziegler's second child. He was actively involved in the 4-H Club and always showed his dad's Hereford cattle at various summer fairs and shows.

After graduating from High School in 1970, Arden took four head of cattle down to the Toronto Royal Winter Fair. Four nights on the train, riding with the cattle, much of the time, was an experience to remember!

In his spare time, Arden square-danced and played on several of the local hockey teams in Vegreville. He is presently playing hockey for the "Old Timers" and really does feel old after a game!

In 1971 Arden took two years of Agriculture at the University of Alberta, searching for some ideas to better his knowledge in farming. He didn't find many ideas, but he did meet his wife, Holley, who was at that time, working towards her degree in nursing.

On April 26, 1975 Arden and Holley were married in Calgary — the city where Holley was raised. She still gets pangs to visit the foothills from time to time.

Arden and Holley purchased their farm located 4 miles from Vegreville (SE 2-53-15-W4) in the fall of 1975 and went to work to begin the many years it takes to build a farmstead.



Arden, Holley and Jeffrey Ziegler, 1979.

Holley worked in the Holden and Vegreville area as a community health nurse for four years, before Jeffrey Gordon was born on July 26, 1979.

Arden is now in partnership with his father Gordon, and they raise purebred Hereford cattle and farm thirteen quarters of land.

Ziegler, Arthur and Margaret **by Margaret Ziegler**

Arthur Ziegler was born in 1922 when his parents, Henry and Agnes Ziegler, farmed in the Park Grove district and spent his growing-up years helping with the business of farming and attending school at the Park Grove School. During this period a great deal of time was spent handling, driving, riding, and grooming horses, one of them being his little Shetland mare, Mary, and later a Shetland cross, Juanita, which he had till after his marriage to Margaret Ferguson who came from the town of Vegreville, daughter of Marion and Milo Ferguson. They settled in the spring of 1942 on their farm which had been known as "Do-Drop-In." It was a busy life as Arthur handled his own farming and rented his Dad's land, besides building a purebred Polled Hereford herd. Many hands were needed to carry out the operation successfully which meant many people around the kitchen table at mealtime.

In April, 1944, Gregg Allan was welcomed into the household, and in no time at all, March, 1945, Deryk Melvin arrived. Then the year we built a new house, 1947, Brenda Marion decided that in August she would make an appearance. With the arrival of Noreen Marie in December, 1949, our family was complete. That was until December, 1963, when Elwood Edwin Ziegler arrived and lost his mother, Thelma. We enjoyed a young one in the house again till Elwood reached his second birthday, and his Dad, Berton, took him to live with him and Elwood's four brothers.

In the summer, after summerfallow and before haying, preparations were made to attend Exhibitions — Lloydminster, Vermilion, Vegreville, and sometimes Camrose, and we would load cattle, feed, children, food and clothing and hit the road. At the Fair the cattle (from 8 to 15 head) had to be scrubbed clean to show the white head and other white markings, fed and stalls kept immaculate. For all this and showing the cattle in the ring, the children were a great help, and boxes of ribbons and trophies were accumulated through the years.

Gregg, Deryk and Noreen all spent some time in the 4H Beef Club while Brenda busied herself with piano lessons.

Gregg, being the first child, received the brunt of the "exactness" which we were taught to use on



Master Farm Family — the Arthur Ziegler family and others at recognition banquet. (l. to r.) — Hon. H. A. Ruste, Deryk, Noreen, Arthur, Margaret, Gregg, Dr. Ballentine (Deputy Minister of Agriculture), and Nick Chomik (Veg. Dist. Agriculturist). (Brenda missing). 1970.



Modern combining on Arthur Ziegler farm in early 1960's.

babies but, in spite of this, grew up to be a lovely child. He started school at Park Grove in 1950, riding a horse the 2½ miles, accompanied by his mother on another horse. Then during the winter he was driven to school and by the next year the school division had arranged for buses to take them to Vegreville. Deryk, a strong young lad, started that year, 1951, and the two children were bundled up and sent off each morning about 8:15, and as school then didn't dismiss till 4:00 p.m. it was about 4:35 when they got home again, very hungry.

Gregg and Deryk did many things together through the years — they played hockey on the same team during the winter and baseball during the summer, and mother provided the transportation to and from Vegreville. Then willing but weary legs, at times when it was necessary, fed the herd of Hereford cattle their evening meal. Gregg graduated from High School in 1962 and went on to study Pharmacy at the University of Alberta, Edmonton, graduating from there with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Pharmacy in 1965 and now, in 1979, is the major



Arthur and Margaret Ziegler farm, 1965.

owner of Ziegler Drug Mart in Vegreville, also continuing his career in farming. Married in 1972 to Leah McIntosh, they now have four children.

Deryk grew up with the idea that the only life there is is farming, and with this in mind purchased some land just after graduating from High School in 1965, but a year later decided that further schooling would probably be an asset and took another year to decide what and where. He enrolled in the University of Montana in September, 1965, and graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Agriculture in 1968. Deryk has since expanded his farming operations and spent some winters working for the Department of Agriculture. Married in 1972 to Barbara Cox they now reside on their farm in Vegreville with their two children.

Brenda, a sweet young thing, took her lunch kit and boarded the school bus with her brothers in 1953. It was a long day for beginners who had not attended any play-school or kindergarten classes such as are in operation today. Graduation day arrived in the spring of 1965 and Brenda pursued a career in business by attending the Alberta College in Edmonton and graduated with a College diploma in Secretarial work. Brenda was married to Kim Dobson in Germany in 1971, and after living there for several months flew to Michigan, U.S.A., where they made their home for several years. She presently lives in Edmonton with her little daughter, Shauna, while working as Office Manager in one of the Federal Government Departments.



Noreen Ziegler (on left) running at Track and Field Meet in Vancouver, 1966.

Noreen thought the time would never arrive when she could go to school with the rest of the family but in the fall of 1956 our pretty little curly-headed daughter also took her lunch kit and hurried down the lane to the main road with brothers and sister to catch that yellow bus. Noreen started taking part in Track and Field at an early age and at her first out-of-town competition in Coronation Park in Edmonton in 1963 won the Bantam girls 100 yard dash and in the high jump events was one of the two double-event winners. A part of each day was set aside for training periods and Noreen was a consistent winner at Track Meets. In 1964 it was written about her — “Miss Noreen Ziegler, although only 14 years old has done extremely well in her bid for a place on the Women’s



Square dance family (l. to r.) — Brenda, Gregg, Margaret, Arthur, Noreen, and Deryk Ziegler, 1963.

Olympic team. She won a silver medal for her second place win in the 800 meter event at the Western Canadian Championships, and in so doing, broke the Alberta native, and the Alberta Juvenile record. She placed fourth in the 400 meter events and narrowly missed placing on the Alberta Olympic Team by $\frac{2}{5}$ ths of a second." In 1965 Noreen, in Calgary, won the 440 yard dash in 65.7 seconds and set a new Alberta record for the $\frac{1}{2}$ mile (2:32.5). We could go on and on, and during that time interest was running fairly high as Vegreville as a whole did exceptionally well with competitors such as Noreen, Norma Ferguson, Joyce Ferguson, Salina Warawa, Colleen Kinney, Joe Gorsline, Rick Paquette, Valerie Brennan, Joy Fuller, Shauna Mazankowski, Sandra Kuzyk, Don Pawliuk, Ray Welsh, Eddie Sakaluk and others.

Noreen graduated from high school in 1968 and after a year at Camrose Lutheran College decided to enter the University of Alberta and in the spring of 1972 graduated with a Bachelor of Education Degree. Now married to Brian Schierman the couple and their three children live in Calgary.

Square dancing and square dance calling has played an integral part in the lives of the family. In 1952 Arthur and Margaret joined the square dance movement and a year later Arthur pursued a calling career. Gregg, Deryk, Brenda and Noreen enjoyed lessons in 1958 and future dancing with the Vegreville Jolly Mixers and Jamborees such as the one held annually at Penticton, B.C. where thousands of dancers meet in August to enjoy a week at their favorite pastime. Arthur for many years accepted a position on the program and very early in his career was Master of Ceremonies for Alberta Night.

Calling has taken Arthur and Margaret to many distant places such as Victoria, Vancouver, Nelson, Dawson Creek, and Chetwynd, B.C.; Seattle, Wash. U.S.A, Regina, Saskatoon, Moose Jaw, and Prince Albert, Saskatchewan. The Round dance area was a joint effort with Margaret learning the rounds and after teaching Arthur, and the pair making presentation at the dances, Arthur would incorporate many of them into his program.

The culmination of persistent attention to farming needs and land beautification came when the Arthur Ziegler family were rewarded with the coveted Master Farm Family Award in August, 1970.

In 1972 Arthur and Margaret made the move into Vegreville and now enjoy some leisure time spent on trips, the majority of them via motorhome.

Ziegler, Berton and Thelma

They were married June, 1948. Berton was born and raised in the Park Grove district. Thelma was the daughter of John and Evelyn Teare of the Warwick (Fairwood) school district. They farmed on the old Wagner place four miles west of Vegreville. Clinton was born in April, 1949. In 1951, after spending the winter out at Oliver, B.C. with Thelma's parents, they came back March 17 to find the roads all blown in for there had been a three-day snow storm. Even highway #16 was plugged and they had to follow a snow plow east from Edmonton. Being unable to get home, they stayed at Fred Ferguson's in Vegreville for a week. Then they were able to get out to Henry Ziegler's, Berton's parents, by going through the



Going for a buggy ride at Arthur Ziegler farm, with Berton's horse and buggy, 1963.

fields because the roads were still not plowed out. After the roads were plowed, the snow was piled up about ten feet high and there was only one lane for traffic. The second son, Owen, was born in July, 1952. Then in August, they purchased a half-section closer to Park Grove from Mrs. Salamandick. The farm had a crabapple orchard and other fruits like strawberries, raspberries, currants and gooseberries, but Berton was not much of a gardener so only kept up the crabapples. One good year the boys picked close to one hundred two gallon pails. Dale was born in April, 1955. That was the year the power came to the Park Grove district. In the summer of 1959 Clinton and Owen got their first ponies, black and white pinto Shetlands, named Tom and Jerry. That fall, Berton and Arthur purchased a Massey-Ferguson self-propelled combine with a cab which was the first combine with a cab in the Vegreville area. That fall half of the crop was snowed under and had to be combined next spring. During the 1950's Berton and Thelma were active in exhibiting at the Vegreville Exhibition. Thelma was a Director at the exhibition and she was also noted for her ability as a seamstress. Richard was born in August, 1960. Elwood was born in December, 1963 at which time Thelma passed away. In January, 1964, Thelma's uncle and aunt, Dave and Vera Hughston came to live with them for one and a half years before moving to B.C. During the following years, Berton continued farming and acquiring land. The boys kept themselves busy looking after 4-H calves, rabbits and sheep. Spare time was spent horseback riding and motorcycling in the summertime and snowmobiling in the winter. Berton purchased Lorne Cunningham's farm in 1968 which he later sold to Clinton. Recently Berton and the rest of the family have taken up downhill skiing which they all thoroughly enjoy. Unfortunately there are no mountains nearby so skiing trips are limited.

In 1970, Clinton married Lorriane, daughter of Jacob and Helene Mast who resided 15 miles south of Vegreville. They have two children Sheldon and Fronde. Clinton and Berton work together farming 14 quarters and have quite a few head of cattle.

Owen took all his schooling in Vegreville, then attended N.A.I.T. where he took carpentry and now is a foreman in construction in Edmonton. In 1976 he married Marlene, daughter of Norman and Lillian McGowan of Edmonton. Marlene works at the Bank of Montreal in Edmonton and they reside on an acreage near Ardrossan.

Dale took his schooling in Vegreville, then a welding course at N.A.I.T. and now owns his own portable welder. In 1978 he married Corrie, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Abraham Van Dorp of Red Deer. Corrie will have her teaching certificates from the

University of Alberta in December, 1978. They reside in Edmonton.

Richard took his schooling in Vegreville and when he was 16 years old, went to work grooming and exercising race horses. He is now a jockey riding in Calgary and Edmonton race meets. His ambition is to be a top jockey.

Elwood goes to school in Vegreville. Berton's brother, Arthur and his wife Margaret raised Elwood for the first two years and he still spends some time with them. In summer, Elwood spends much of his time riding his motorcycle, and in winter enjoys snowmobiling and skiing. He hasn't decided on a career as yet — due to his asthmatic condition, his choice is limited to a certain extent.

Ziegler, David and Joyce by Joyce (Holloway) Ziegler

David was born March 10th, 1936 in the R.M.B. (Roland M. Boswell) Hospital, with Dr. R. M. Reid in attendance. His parents, George and Edna Ziegler lived north of Vegreville, land location NW 3-53-15 W4. He attended school at Park Grove for the first eight years, and took grades 9 through 11 in Vegreville. Transportation to school in the country was by foot or horse but school buses arrived on the scene in the 50's and brought the farm children into Vegreville. David drove one of these buses from his area one year.

Joyce was delivered February 27th, 1938 in the Vegreville General Hospital by Dr. August Couillard. At that time her parents, Ray and Dora Holloway, lived south of Hairy Hill on NW 2-55-14, the Old McGowan farm, which originally was the Grand View Seed Farm, a combination of General Store, Post Office and Switchboard owned and operated by Mr. and Mrs. Carey Thomas McGowan from 1912-20. The McGowans were Joyce's grandparents, having come to Alberta from Ohio in 1904. The Holloways moved to Vegreville in 1942 and rented at what is now 5914-51st Street, although in those days there were no streets or avenues. They moved into their own home in 1945 at what is now 4818-60th Avenue, at the extreme north edge of the town limits. Joyce took all her schooling in Vegreville, first grades 1 and 2 in the small cottage school which stood where the new Park View Manor is today. The teachers in this school were Miss Jean McCrea and Miss Beryl McLeod. Grades 3 to 9 were taken in the old brick public school . . . remember that old school smell??? A mixture of oiled floors, chalk and coal dust. High School was in the new Peter Svarich School which David also attended. In those days walking to school was the "in" thing and it seems to my mind the winters were much colder then than

now. Mode of dress was long combination underwear (oh, so itchy!!), long brown cotton stockings and, as slacks, or jeans, heaven forbid! were not allowed, one wore wool melton ski pants which were removed during school hours. Failure to do so resulted in a “steamed” classroom!

There were five houses on the road to the Holloway’s — all on 50th Street north of the Elks Hall. First the Gospel Mission, the Peter Pruss home, and the Joe Green place, both in the 56th Street block: then the Silas Richards’ home and lastly the Old Johnson Place. Four of these houses still stand today but are completely surrounded as the town continues to grow. During grades 5 and 6, Joyce would leave home at 8:15 for school, stop at Mr. and Mrs. Richards’ house to pick up Mr. Richards’ lunchpail which she took to him at the school. He was the janitor at the school for many years and as he left for school before 6 AM this was his breakfast Joyce carried. For this task her pay was a whopping 25¢ a week, payday being every Friday. The old Public School which stood where the Dr. Cairns School for the Retarded is built today, was a place of happy memories, presided over by Mr. James McCrea. Other teachers in those growing-up years included Jean Gibson, Muriel Patterson, Margaret Dinwoodie, John Finlay and “Doc” George Hosking to name a few. Item of interest: Doc Hosking taught Dora McGowan, and years later her daughters, Laurine and Joyce. Mr. and Mrs. Hosking were grand people and it is still a pleasure to visit with Mrs. Hosking, who now resides in Edmonton. High School teachers who stand head and shoulders above others in memories were Daphne Garrison, Ken Duggan and Gordon Strong.

Vegreville years ago . . . what was it like??? A wonderful place to grow up among family and friends. The old Vimy Theatre run by Mr. Nick Kieryluk and Mr. Dimmie Sherbaniuk — the noise those men had to put up with — packed Saturday afternoon matinees, at 10¢ a head. Joyce remembers a few years later having to pay 12¢!! Eventually the Sky-View Drive-in opened in Vegreville but in those days, TV was almost nonexistent here and radio played a large part in family lives. Hurry and get Sunday supper over, the dishes done and sit and listen to Lux Theatre. There was also Fibber McGee and Molly and the more exciting ones, “The Shadow” and “Superman.” There was Warren’s Meat Market run by Mr. Warren Sr. and his three sons, Bob, George and Newt. Rather than buy candy or ice cream with her 5¢ spending money, Joyce would go to Warrens and buy 5 wieners for 5¢! Due to inflation this went to 3 for 5¢, and by then Joyce was a little old to be eating wieners in the show!! The 5¢ to \$1.00

Store, managed by Mr. McClure, where you really did buy goods from 5¢ to one dollar, still flourishes in town today. Rexall Drugs sold comics for 10¢ apiece and this brings to mind the time Grandma Emery gave Joyce \$1.00 for her birthday to spend as she pleased. Down to Rexall and guess what? Ten comics! And anyone living in Vegreville stopped by the Rexall ever so often to weigh themselves on the huge scale just inside the door. The Barber, Simon Sysak, had his barber’s chair in part of the Victory Cafe and cut boys’ and girls’ hair alike. (Shingled at the back, ear tip length on the sides!) The old library was a small house set beside the railroad tracks where I.G.A. now is. It was oh, so small but what a wealth of knowledge and friendships came from those books. This building was moved to the golf course in later years and used for their club house. And what child growing up in Vegreville can ever forget those frequent stops made to and from school at Mr. and Mrs. Flechuk’s Confectionery, situated on Highway 16 where Royal Travel now stands. The Flechuks were friends of all children. I cannot recall the shoemaker’s name that was here in the late 1940’s but I still see him downtown with his old buddies and often wonder if he ever knew the joys for a 7 or 8-year-old who sat and warmed up by his pot-bellied stove in the shop behind the Hero Cafe, across from the C.N.R. station. That station!!! Trains to Edmonton at 4 AM — the only way to travel! The Holloways used to go by train, that was C.P.R. to Spring Creek (name now changed to Norma) to visit relatives. Old plush seats that let out a sigh of dust when you hit them, the old lamps that clipped onto the walls between the windows and it was always late!! The fun of the old fairs and later farm camps, youth groups and hay rides and bean suppers stays with us as pleasant times. There was also a curfew at this time — the fire siren would ring at 9 PM and all the children out at that time scooted home. Doctors were personal friends and many a person dreaded that painful trip to see Dr. Hardin the dentist but he was held in high esteem and still is to this day. The town has changed greatly. There are a lot of new faces but our lives were enriched by the various people who influenced our growing-up years.

When David left school in 1955, he went to Innisfail to try his hand at the “Undertaking Business” but found this just wasn’t his thing so he came back to Vegreville and worked at Milner Motors, where the Town garage now stands. He joined Canadian Utilities in January of 1956 on the Maintenance Crew working under Harold Trenaman. Joyce had been working for A.G.T. as a telephone operator, first in Vegreville and then in Calgary from 1954-56. Wedding vows were exchanged in the evening of

January 5, 1957 in the Vegreville United Church, with Rev. Henry Roemer officiating. (This church was located downtown and was eventually bought by A.G.T. to enlarge their office.) They held their wedding dance in the Elks' Hall with Joe Dubuc's orchestra supplying the music. That same year David was transferred to Smoky Lake with the power company where he worked as a serviceman for 3½ years. They purchased their first home here, a 40-foot Big M house-trailer. Two of their children were born in the George McDougall Hospital there: Dean Charles January 27th, 1958 and Lorna Rae April 14, 1959. In 1961 they were on the move again to Grand Centre, where David was a serviceman servicing Grand Centre, Cold Lake Air Base and Cold Lake town. They completed their family there, having two daughters in the John Neil Hospital at Cold Lake. Patti Jean born August, 1961, died October, 1961; and Sue Ellen, born February 24th, 1964.

In 1964 David was transferred again; (thank goodness for that mobile home) this time to Willingdon as Senior Serviceman, where they spent 3½ years before David was moved back to his home town of Vegreville. During all these moves, both David and Joyce became involved with various community activities. Back in Veg., David was involved with Minor Hockey as a coach and with Kinsmen. He also started referee-ing in earnest and worked many games locally and in surrounding communities for 10 years. He was deeply involved with the Alberta Power Employees' Association, first as chairman for the Vegreville District and then as Vice President for the Provincial Association, followed by being President for two years. He received his 20-year service award pin with ruby in 1976. Joyce belonged to Hospital Auxiliary and taught Sunday School at the United Church for six years. She also served as a Tawney Owl for Brownies for 4 years. The children were involved with Minor Hockey, figure skating, baseball and church group activities, which also meant a lot of driving for Joyce. One summer she found herself appointed assistant-coach when Joe Goshko couldn't get away to out-of-town games.

Dean took most of his schooling in Vegreville (grades 1 through 4 in Willingdon) but completed his grade 12 at A.V.C. in Edmonton. He worked for A.M.A. during the winters and is at the Riviera Hotel at present.

Lorna graduated from the Vegreville Comp. High School in 1977 and is now in her second year at Grant MacEwan College taking Early Childhood Development, leading to work with the Mentally Handicapped.

Sue is presently in Grade 10 at the Veg. Comp.

High. Her interests include Art and singing in the United Church Choir.

In 1972 David became Construction Inspector for the Vegreville District, a job he held for six years. He is at present with the Engineering Department and is completing his 23rd year of work for Alberta Power.

Joyce rejoined the work force after all the children were in school and spent four and a half years working at the Vegreville Veterinary Clinic. In September, 1978 she went back to work for A.G.T. after being away from operating for 21 years. Operating is vastly different now from the old 'number, please' days, when office staff consisted of a General Mgr., 3 workmen and approximately 12 operators. Now there are many new methods, computers and employees in the hundreds. Joyce is a member of the local Library Board and Dave belongs to K-40's, which is the old Kinsmen put out to pasture.

Ziegler, Deryk and Barbara

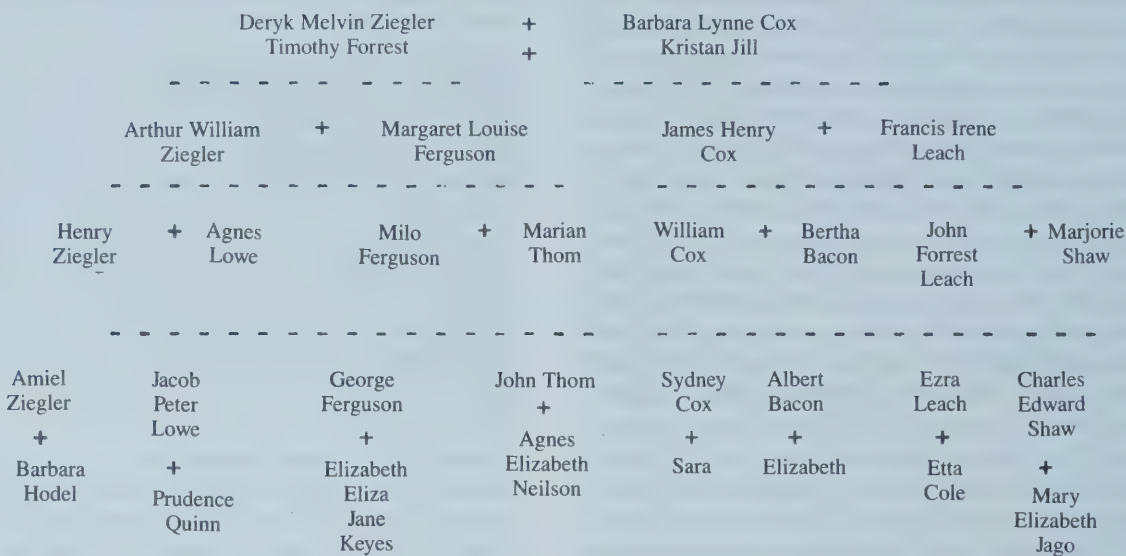
Deryk was born on March 19, 1945. Barbara was born on February 5, 1949. Deryk grew up a farm boy with Mom (Margaret), Dad (Arthur), brother (Gregg), and two sisters (Brenda and Noreen). Barbara with her family, Mom (Frances), Dad (Jim), two sisters (Judy and Marylynn) and three brothers (Jamie, David and Vaughn) was raised in the town of Vegreville. They were both educated in the same schools until after high school.

Immediately following graduation, Deryk began a farming career, but later decided to pursue further studies, so he entered the Montana State University system where he obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture Science. Commencement was in the spring of 1970 and Deryk returned home to continue farming. Also he has held various winter jobs including agriculture research at the Agriculture Economics Branch in Edmonton, survey work, and instruction courses.

Barbara travelled to the silver-mining town of Echo Bay, North West Territories, to work as a kitchen helper for six months before returning to Edmonton to a job as secretary for City Trust and Real Estate Company.

The later part of 1971 brought Deryk and Barbara together and marriage ceremonies took place on June 30, 1972. After a one-month honeymoon trip which included the Grand Canyon, Las Vegas and Disneyland, California; the couple settled into the home place where Deryk grew up. While they were away, Dad and Mom (Arthur and Margaret) moved into town to accommodate the room. Two years later (1974) they moved into Ella Wynnnychuk's house (the old Lopushinsky place). This came about when brother Gregg decided to return to the home farm.

Deryk and Barbara Ziegler Family Tree



In the year 1940 they doubled the size of the house. The late Jack Lowe was chief carpenter.

It was then (immediately following the move) that Barbara and Deryk experienced two welcome additions to their home. Timothy Forrest was born on April 15, 1974, followed by Kristin Jill on July 4, 1975.

The year 1976 brought another move for this family. During the month of August, 1976, they purchased a three-bedroom split-level home with a spacious yard and began living there in September, 1976. This home is located at 4405-48A Street, Vegreville.

Another two years later (fall 1978) finds Deryk, Barbara, Timothy and Kristan moving again. This time to the farm home place of Grandpa Henry and Grandma Agnes Ziegler. Grandpa and Grandma had lived in this home from the year 1927 until the spring of 1978.

Ziegler, George and Edna
by Lois (Ziegler) Gregory

George Ziegler was born in Spruce Grove, Alberta, March 2, 1903, on the farm of his parents, Amiel and Barbara Ziegler. He was raised there and attended St. John School near home. In 1920 he came to the Park Grove area, near Vegreville, where he worked for his brother Henry.

Cattle and horses were brought by train from

Spruce Grove. On one trip George arrived at Royal Park at midnight, unloaded the animals in the corrals and proceeded home in the dark of the night, to return the next day and pick up the stock including a cat that spent the night in a box on a post.

In 1922 George married Edna Lowe, daughter of Jacob and Prudence Lowe, who also lived at Spruce Grove. Edna was born near Huntsville, Ontario, in 1904 and came west with the family in 1909 to Stony Plain. Later they moved to Spruce Grove and then to Winterburn.



George Ziegler family, 1965. Back row (l. to r.) — Bob Bown, Claire, Bob Gregory, David, Lloyd, Elgin. Front row (l. to r.) — Lorraine Bown, Joyce Ziegler, George, Edna, Lois Gregory.

George and Edna moved onto SE 9-53-15-W4 (also known as Do-Drop-In). In 1931 they moved across the road to the NW 3-53-15-W4 (presently Gordon Ziegler's).

George was mechanically inclined and looked after the separator of the threshing machine while his brother, John, ran the steam engine. Later George purchased a steel-wheeled gasoline tractor and machinery to work the land.

Years passed and in 1938 George purchased a D-2



George Ziegler breaking land in the Vegreville district in 1929. His tractor is a 15-30 McCormick Deering.



Putting up a plywood granary in Jack Lowe's yard, for Claire Ziegler. (L. to r.) — Harold Ripley — Vegreville Wheat Pool Elevator agent, Claire Ziegler, Jack Lowe and Edward Sanford, 1953.



Steam engine, thresher and bunk house on the move in Park Grove district, 1923.

caterpillar for his farming operation. He had to travel to Edmonton for diesel fuel (at eight cents a gallon) as it was not available in Vegreville. With this tractor three basements were dug for new homes and home additions.

Also during the thirties George levelled a piece of ground near the creek which ran south of the house and there built a regulation size skating rink. Water was piped from the well to flood it. An old granary served as a place to change skates. Many youngsters and older skaters for miles around enjoyed this winter facility.

In 1941 George purchased two eight-foot horse binders and hooked them behind the D-2. When in transport one followed the other. When in use in the field the back binder moved over and the outfit cut sixteen feet. (A wide swath at that time).

For a few years George worked for the municipality building roads. He also graded and maintained the roads during the summer. A snow plow had been built to fit the front of the tractor and this was used to clear roads and yards in the winter.

He was an unsuccessful candidate for municipal council.

Other projects of his were grinding grain for feed and cleaning grain for seed. Neighbors for miles around used these services.

He was secretary of Park Grove School No. 1270 for a number of years. When the school closed in 1952 he, along with the neighbors, formed the Park Grove Community Centre and purchased the school from the Vegreville School Division. He served as the first president and held that position for a number of years.

In 1949 he was elected as Alberta Wheat Pool delegate from district No. 603 and held that position



The Lowe family taken at Geo. and Edna Ziegler's home, 1953. Front row (l. to r.) — Esther, Aggie, Susie, Edna, Eva and Irene. Back row (l. to r.) — Joe, Maurice, Jack, Chester and Marjorie.

until his untimely death from a heart attack November 19, 1965. He was preparing to attend the Annual Convention which began the following Monday in Calgary.

During the early fifties plans were made to build a seed cleaning plant in Vegreville. George was instrumental in its building and was elected chairman in 1953 when it opened. He held that position until November, 1965. He also served twelve years as president of the Provincial Seed Cleaning Association.

George served on many other organizations including director of the Vegreville Co-op Store; member of the committee during the addition to the Vegreville United Church (next to A.G.T.); board member during the building of the Vegreville Curling Rink; past president of the Vegreville Chamber of Commerce and president of the Mutual Telephone Company.

Edna was active in the church group. She joined the Women's Missionary Society of the Park Grove United Church in 1929 and has been active in the United Church. She is also a member of the local Women of Unifarm and has been a member of the farm organizations for thirty years.

Edna had worked in Edmonton before her marriage and remembers travelling between Edmonton and Spruce Grove over a corduroy road. (A far cry from today's highway).

In 1952 the family moved to NE 34-52-15-W4 (the Cunningham farm) where Edna and her sons Elgin and Lloyd still reside.

Claire, the oldest boy, was born in Vegreville. He attended Park Grove school for eight years and then helped his dad on the farm for a number of years.

In 1948 he graduated from the Vermilion School of Agriculture after completing the two-year course.

Claire was instrumental in organizing the Vegreville Rural Fire Association, the Vegreville Co-operative Artificial Breeders Association and the Vegreville Credit Union. He served as the first president on all these Co-ops and later as a board member.

He was active in the local community as well, belonging to the Farmers' Union of Alberta; Park Grove Community Centre; The Vegreville Elks, which he served as treasurer and vice-president. He was a steward of the Vegreville United Church for many years. He held the post of director of the United Farmers of Alberta for a time. He passed away May 16, 1966, of cancer.

Lois, the older daughter, was born in Vegreville and raised in the community. She married Robert Gregory and lives on the Gregory home farm.

Lorraine, the younger daughter, trained as a nurse. She married Robert Bown and lives on the

Bown home farm at Ranfurly. They have six children. She nurses part-time at the Vegreville hospital.

Elgin is farming in the Park Grove district. He belongs to the Unifarm local and has served as secretary for eighteen years. He also held the position of secretary for the Vegreville Seed Cleaning Plant for four years. Flying is one of his fancies and at one time he held a pilot's license.

David took some schooling at Park Grove and drove the school bus for awhile when he attended school in Vegreville. Following school he joined Alberta Power as part of the construction crew. He has been with the company twenty-three years and is now an engineering assistant in Vegreville. He married Joyce Holloway and they have three children, Dean, Lorna Rae and Sue Ellen.

Lloyd is farming the home place and helps out at the Park Grove Community Centre and the Vegreville United Church.

George was a driving force in the district and a willing worker, always ready to lend a helping hand. The family has tried to follow in his footsteps, but they are big shoes to fill.

Ziegler, Gordon and Edna

by Edna Ziegler

Gordon Edward was born in Vegreville on October 21, 1926, and lived in the Park Grove District all his life. He is the youngest son of Mary Agnes and the late Henry Ziegler who were farmers in the district, coming here in the year 1920.

He met his wife, Edna Mabel Johnston, born May 8, 1929, of Willingdon, at the Vermilion School of Agriculture in 1949, from which they both graduated. Edna's parents are Ernie and Mable Johnston, who farmed in Willingdon, and now reside in Vegreville since 1949.

Gordon and Edna were married on January 17, 1950 and have five children.

REBECCA LYNN — October 12, 1950

Rebecca graduated from the University of Alberta with a Bachelor of Science Degree and worked with the Immunology Department at the University of Alberta. She is presently employed with Fisher Scientific in Edmonton as Quotations Co-ordinator. ARDEN DWIGHT — August 20, 1952

Arden attended the University of Alberta for two years taking Agriculture, where he met Holley Swann of Calgary. They were married on April 26, 1975. Arden is presently farming with his Dad; Holley worked as a Community Health Nurse for four years after their marriage. On July 26th, 1979, their first son Jeffrey Gordon was born.

GWEN MAXINE — July 27, 1954



Gordon Ziegler family, 1962. Top (l. to r.) — Gwen, Arden, Rebecca. Edna (mother) and Blair, Gordon (father) and Colleen.

Gwen attended the University of Alberta for one year before going on an Exchange Program to Denmark. She married Arthur Pagee of Vegreville on September 14, 1974. They have one son, Preston Lyle, born on February 19, 1977. Art is presently working with Continental Petroleum Rubber Co. Ltd., and Gwen part-time with Equitable Life Insurance in Regina, Saskatchewan. Gwen and Art expect their second child in December of 1979.

COLLEEN JOY — August 28, 1960

Colleen graduated from the Vegreville Composite High School in 1978. Colleen was crowned "Miss Canadian Western 1977" at the Canadian Western Stock Show and Sale in Edmonton. She is now working as a secretary for the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in Vegreville.

BLAIR RANDALL — November 30, 1962.

Blair is presently enrolled in grade twelve at the Vegreville Composite High School. He is very involved in team sports and is particularly interested in automotives, which has been very useful. Blair has taken an active part in the farming operation.

All the children have been actively involved in the 4-H Beef Club and have done very well.

Gordon started mixed farming in 1950 working with his brothers Arthur and Berton. He purchased a half-section, the N of 3-53-15 W4 in 1952 from George Ziegler. The farm has now grown to thirteen quarters, two of which are Arden's and three of which are rented.



Gordon Ziegler family, 1978. Top (l. to r.) — Arden, Edna, Gordon, daughter-in-law Holley, Blair, son-in-law Art. Bottom (l. to r.) — grandson Preston, Gwen, Colleen and Rebecca.

In 1976, sixty cows were purchased from Arthur Ziegler, and as a result, Gordon and Arden formed a partnership called Calerdon Cattle Company. Their herd of Polled Herefords now consists of three hundred head.

Gordon has showed Herefords at the Vegreville Exhibition for forty-two years, has made several trips to the Toronto Royal Exhibition and has shown at fairs in both Saskatchewan and Alberta, always picking up a few red ribbons. The Exhibitions were always a family affair and very enjoyable. Gordon has sold bulls at various centers through the years, which has proved to be a very rewarding and profitable enterprise.

In addition to raising Herefords, Gordon has been involved in the organization and promotion of the cattle industry. He has raised registered Herefords since 1941 and is a life member of the Canadian Hereford Association, served on the Alberta Hereford Association Board of Directors for two years, and is a life director of the Northern Alberta Hereford Club. At present time Gordon is a zone representative on the Alberta Cattle Commission.

Gordon served as President of the Vegreville Exhibition Association for two years, director for 24 years and is still serving in this capacity. He was secretary of the Rural Telephone Co. for 15 years, is a member of the Alberta Wheat Pool, U.F.A. Co-op and the Co-op Store. Both Gordon and Edna have been members of their respective farm organizations

(Unifarm) and have both held positions on the executive.

Gordon and Edna are active member of the Park Grove Community Centre (old school house) where many social functions are held.

Gordon and Edna have been actively involved in square dancing, since their marriage, particularly during the early years, when their children also joined in. For many years, the annual family holiday was spent at the Penticton Square Dance Jamboree in British Columbia.

From the Files of the Vegreville Observer 1966

Gordon and Edna Ziegler motored to Calgary last week to attend the Bull Sale, at which time Gordon received a membership in the Quarter Century Club, for having raised registered Hereford cattle for 25 years. Henry and Arthur Ziegler received pins previously, making the only family in the Club with three members.

In 1977 Gordon Ziegler was elected Vice-President of the Quarter Century Club.

Ziegler, Gregg and Leah by Leah Ziegler

On April 4, 1944 a little newcomer was welcomed into the Park Grove Community. Gregg Allan, oldest child of Arthur and Margaret Ziegler, was born that day.

Being a healthy and happy young boy, Gregg grew rapidly and soon became a great help around the farm. Some of Arthur's favorite stories are about Gregg's helping little hands doing odd chores without being asked. Fixing the tractor by taking a hammer to the dash board, and painting the barn walls with many different colors of paint were some of the ways in which young Gregg brightened up his parents' days.

Soon, however, Gregg grew older and wiser and did indeed become a valuable worker around the family farm. At an early age Gregg and brother Deryk learned to run the machinery and aided greatly in the cattle and grain farming business. All four children in the family were active members of many organizations — cubs, scouts, Brownies, guides, 4-H clubs, reserve corps, and Hi-C.

In 1962 Gregg graduated from Peter Svarich High School, and continued his education at the University of Alberta in Edmonton. In 1965 he graduated from the University of Alberta with his Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy. His career in Pharmacy began with the Tamblyn chain of drug stores in Edmonton. After expanding his knowledge and experience in the drug business for one and a half years, Gregg de-

cided some travelling was in order. So on December 3, 1966 Gregg and cousins Brian and Lawrence Ferguson left for a five-month visit to New Zealand. While there they worked at different jobs and travelled the country extensively. After a thorough comparison of life styles they decided to return to Canada to resume their careers. Gregg started work with Parke, Davis, and Co., a drug manufacturing company — as a pharmaceutical sales representative. The territory he serviced was around the Calgary area, so Calgary became his new home.

There were many young ladies in Gregg's life off and on throughout the years, but in 1971 Gregg met his "one and only". Leah McIntosh was working in Edmonton and living with Gregg's younger sister, Noreen. The visits between the two cities became increasingly frequent and on March 18, 1972 Gregg and I exchanged wedding vows. Gregg continued as a sales representative while I worked for Shell Canada Ltd. in one of their Calgary offices.

My career was short-lived as our first child — Brent Allan — was born in June 5, 1973. Shortly after this great event we made a great decision — to move to the life of "greener pastures" — so to speak. A move to Gregg's homeland six miles northwest of Vegreville was planned for the spring of 1974.

Having been a city gal all my life I was quite unprepared for the life of a farmer's wife. However, after a couple of years on the farm with my trusty hand-drawn map of the area I soon became quite adept at using terms such as: seeding, discing, plowing, summer fallow, west 100 acres, east half, etc.

On May 2, 1975 we were blessed with the arrival of a playmate for Brent. Ryan Jeffrey was our first child to be born in Vegreville. There is no better place in the world for raising children, I'm sure, than on a farm. As the boys grew a little older they certainly took advantage of the freedom of the country to exercise their little legs. The first time that Aunt Edna Ziegler phoned me to tell me that she had two little male visitors at her house I was quite amazed! The little guys — then four and two years old — had decided to go for a walk and do some visiting. It was the first of many walking excursions, but after a few lessons in road safety we didn't worry so much.

After moving to Vegreville Gregg did some relief pharmacy work at King Drug. The opportunity arose for us to open a drug store of our own. So on June 3, 1975 we opened the doors of Ziegler Drug Mart for business. Life had become very busy and full, both in town and on the farm.

Our third child — a little girl named Karley Ann — arrived on March 2, 1978. Brent and Ryan were thrilled with their new sister, as were we with our wee baby daughter.

Which brings us to the fall of 1978. The children continue to grow, the store goes on day after day, the pace sometimes slackens, although very little, the work is never quite done, and life on the farm is satisfying, beautiful, and fulfilling.

There is no place quite like the Park Grove District of Vegreville.

Ziegler, Henry and Agnes

by Agnes (Lowe) Ziegler

I was born in Ontario in 1897 and came West with my family (J. P. Lowe) in 1909, living in Stony Plain for two years, then moving to Spruce Grove.

Henry was born at Spruce Grove in November of 1893. We were married December 27, 1917, in Edmonton by the Rev. G. D. McQueen. There were very few big weddings then — usually just took a day off and went to the minister's home or the bride's home and got married — with just a few of the family members around — and just one bridesmaid and one bestman. Jack Lowe, my brother as the bestman, Henry's sister, Betty Ziegler as bridesmaid, and John Ziegler, the wedding guest, made up the wedding party.

The day was bitterly cold, forty below F. Henry had a Chev touring car (there were no closed-in cars at that time, all were very open) with a top that could be put up or down as the weather permitted, with snap-on side curtains and some of the snaps wouldn't hold and would flap in the wind. Going thirty miles an hour, it would be quite cold when it was forty below. There was no antifreeze at that time so cars had to be drained after each trip made in the winter . . . and thoroughly drained by two taps underneath! No heated garages those days either, and no self-starters — cars came with cranks that you put in the engine and you turned the crank . . . and very often

they were known to kick with such force they would throw you . . . often breaking an arm or dislocating a shoulder.

The night before the wedding, Henry put a boiler of water on the stove and in the morning he carried the hot water out to the garage and filled the radiator . . . then covered it with a buffalo robe . . . and a half an hour later he started it up and we didn't dare turn it off that day.

We were married in the morning and all five of us went to a nice place in Edmonton and had a Wedding Dinner . . . and later went home. We lived on Henry's home place until the spring of 1920 when we moved to Vegreville, buying land in the Park Grove District, living on Section 9-53-15-W4 where Gregg Ziegler now lives. In 1928, we moved to Section 4-53-15-W4 and in March, 1978, moved to an apartment in Vegreville.

We had a family of five:

Jennette, born January, 1919; who married George Ferguson in 1939 and lives in the Park Grove District.

Barbara, born October, 1920, married Clifford Appleby of Tofield where they live.

Arthur, born July, 1922, married Margaret Ferguson in 1942 and now lives in Vegreville.

Berton, born July, 1925, married Thelma Teare in 1948; she passed away in December 1963. Berton lives in the Park Grove District.

Gordon, born October, 1926, married Edna Johnson in 1950, and resides in the Park Grove district.

There are 29 grandchildren and 27 great-grandchildren. The family was shocked when Thelma passed away so suddenly, but we all feel that Berton has done a fine job of raising and looking after his boys.

Most of our entertainment was held at the School House. Besides Christmas Concerts there were



Hauling grain from threshing machine — at Henry Ziegler's, 1930's.



The Henry Ziegler family, 1960. Back row (l. to r.) — Gordon, George Ferguson (Jennette's husband), Jennette, Thelma and Bert Ziegler, Margaret and Arthur Ziegler, Clifford Appleby. Front row (l. to r.) — Edna (Gordon's wife), Mrs. and Mr. Henry Ziegler, Barbara (Clifford Appleby's wife).



(L. to r.) — Henry Ziegler, his dad Amiel Ziegler, Richard Ferguson with dog — Mike?, Adolph Hohn, Alex Ziegler beside the cook, Billy Connelly — (?). Bill Ziegler and George Ziegler. Alex on the brush cutter. George doing the breaking. 1928.



Henry Ziegler at the wheel of his dad Amiel Ziegler's first car — a Reo — a 1910 model. Bought second-hand from Alex Groat, a neighbor at Spruce Grove, 1914.



The 5 Ziegler brothers who all lived in the Park Grove Community. (L. to r.) — (youngest to the oldest) Alex, Bill, George, John, and Henry. 1930.

No. **A1 34**

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CANADA
PROVINCE OF ALBERTA

Certificate of Registration and Receipt

UNDER THE MOTOR VEHICLE ACT

THESE ARE TO CERTIFY that Henry Ziegler
of Spruce Grove, having paid the sum of Twenty 50 Dollars,
is hereby registered for the term ending the 31st day of December next following under "The Motor Vehicle Act" as follows:

Owner
License No. 175
Maker's Name Reo
Factory Number A 23828
Motive Power Gasoline
Horse Power 21.7
Style Touring
Wheel Base 102

Motorcycle
License No.
Trade Name.....
Factory No.....

Chaufeur
License No.....

\$ 17.50

Countersigned

[Signature]

E. TROWBRIDGE,
Deputy Provincial Secretary.

church, Sunday School, ladies' and men's meetings, dances, card parties, chicken suppers, teas, pot luck suppers, plays, quilting bees, bridal shower, 25th and 50th wedding anniversaries, and even a wedding reception when Gladys Wilson and Rev. Kemp were married there.

I usually had help in the house as we had several hired men most of the time. Henry was involved in community work, a trustee of the Park Grove School, road boss, Steward of the United Church, one of the first directors of the Vegreville Co-op Store, original signer of the Alberta Wheat Pool and a member of Unifarm.

In 1934 we bought our first Purebred Herefords and showed cattle at many fairs and sold bulls at many bull sales.

Through the years we owned thirty-two quarters of land at different times, and always had hired men to help to do the work until the boys were old enough to take over.

We celebrated our 50th Anniversary in December, 1967, with open house at Arthur and Margaret's, followed by a dance in town. Then in 1977, we had our 60th Wedding Anniversary open house at the Chateau Dining Room in Vegreville. Henry passed away on April 17, 1978, after several years of poor health.

We enjoyed living in the Park Grove District. The boys have bought most of our land and I am still able to go out and visit in the district. I am now a resident at the Senior Citizens Home in Tofield and enjoy the visits of family and friends.



"Do-Drop-In" built in 1914 — home of Arthur and Margaret Ziegler from 1942-47.

"Do Drop In"

By Agnes (Lowe) Ziegler

Henry's father, Amiel Ziegler, came to the Vegreville district about 1913 or 1914. He bought Section 9-15-53-W4. His wife came with him and his son-in-law, Will Ferguson, who had a "Case" steam engine and they started breaking right away. The first summer they lived in a tent. They went back to Spruce Grove in the winter time. The next year he built a small lean-to shack. In 1914 or 1915, Will's family moved down and they added a bedroom. While Will Ferguson was living there, Fred and Minnie Ferguson and family lived in a small shack and Charlie and Irene Ferguson lived there too.

In April, 1920, Henry and I and Jennette came down from Spruce Grove. Will moved away and so did Fred and Charlie. My brother, Jack Lowe, married Henry's sister, Betty, and they came and lived in one of the small houses.

Someone thought we should name the place and it was suggested it be "Do Drop In" and it went by that name for a long time.

Jack moved away in the fall of 1922 to his own farm. Then George Ziegler, who had married my sister, Edna, moved into where Jack had been living.

In the summer of 1923, Henry's sister Emilie and her husband, Bob McMaster came and lived there for the summer. My brother, Maurice Lowe and his wife, Lena, lived there the summer of 1924. That fall Henry bought the north half-section of 4 from Mr. Zalizniak and Maurice moved over to that place. In January, 1927, Maurice left for the Peace River Country and George and Edna moved over to Section 4 that summer.

George moved to town to help Louis Knies set up binders. The house they lived in belonged to Billie Wagner. His house on the farm burned down so he wanted to live in his house in town, then George and Edna moved back to "Do Drop In". In the meantime, we moved to Section 4-15-53-W4 in 1928. In 1931, George and Edna moved to the farm which Henry had bought from Henry (Dad) Freeman.

Henry's brother, Alex and his wife, Dora, lived at "Do Drop In" the winter of 1934-35. When Rich Ferguson and Priscilla Dewart were married in March of 1935, Alex and Dora moved away and Rich lived there for several years until he got a job at the Royal Park Elevator. In 1941, when Harold Fuller who had married my sister, Eva, joined the army, Eva and her two little boys came and lived at "Do Drop In". In the summer of 1941, my brother, Chester Lowe joined at R.C.A.F. His wife and four children came from Hythe and lived with Eva for the summer. In March of 1942, Eva moved to town. My son Arthur married Margaret Ferguson and they moved

into "Do Drop In". They lived there until they built a new house in 1947.

In 1950, my son Gordon married Edna Johnston and he moved the original building over to our yard on Section 4 and they lived in it for several years, then moved to the George Ziegler place a few years later.

Phil Holt and his wife, Josie, lived there for a year. In between times it was used for hired men. It is still there, and is used as a store house. The last time I looked in, there were three cupboards, two chesterfields, a stove, a bed, a radio, a sewing machine, several boxes of quilt patches and piles of magazines and pictures.

We moved away from Sec. 4 in April of 1978 where we had lived for 50 years. Deryk Ziegler purchased the quarter-section with the buildings and is presently living there. Gregg Ziegler purchased and is presently living on the original "Do Drop In" place.

Development of Henry Ziegler's Hereford Herd

by Gordon Ziegler

Henry Ziegler and his family moved from Spruce Grove to Vegreville, Alberta in 1920. He brought with him a carload of cattle, including a Hereford cow which produced well for him. Offspring from her were still in the herd in 1945. One year a neighbour weaned his calves, and he found he had one with no horns, so Dad bought him. This was the first Polled Bull he had in the early twenties.

In 1929 one of the hired men went to Winnipeg to spend Christmas with relatives, and when he came back he brought a 3-year-old Polled Bull, Echo Pride, from A. Boulton of Morden, Manitoba. This bull weighed 1 Ton and the freight to ship him by rail to Vegreville was \$35.00.

Bulls were bought from Remick at Alliance. The first Polled purebred heifer, Bonnie Panama, was purchased from C. Galinger of Tofield in 1933.

The next 25 years proved to be very satisfying as Henry saw his herd grow from one animal to a herd of 60 cows.

Cattle were purchased from the following breeders:

- 1934 and 1935 bulls from Remick of Alliance
- 1936 group of cows from E. Kallal of Tofield and Remick of Alliance and also three horned heifers from W. Bissell of Viking
- 1937 bull at the Calgary Bull Sale from Bohannon of Carstairs and two horned heifers and one horned cow from W. Bissell of Viking

— 1938 bull also at Calgary Bull Sale from Hughes Bros. of Didsbury

— 1939 Dad could not find a Polled bull he liked, so he purchased a horned bull from W. Bissell of Viking

Homebred bulls were used until 1945 when we purchased the W. Bissell herd in its entirety with Tobruk 10763, Grand Champion Bull at the Calgary Bull Sale in 1943. At this time a partnership was formed between my Dad, myself and my brothers, Arthur and Berton.

— 1947 was a very rewarding year when we won Reserve Champion Bull at Calgary Bull Sale with a son of Tobruk

— 1949 we purchased a bull, Cearleon Standard, Reserve Champion at Calgary Bull Sale, from A. W. Crawford Frost

— 1950 my brother, Berton, sold his share and went farming

— 1954 I sold out my share to purchase a farm of my own. However, I kept two heifers to start my own herd.

Dad gradually sold out to my brother, Arthur, and by 1960 no longer held an interest in the herd.

In the 1960's Arthur had purchased bulls from Powell Bros. of Guernsey, Saskatchewan; Justamere Farms of Lloydminster; Christie Bros. of Lloydminster; J. Kotenko of Vegreville; D. Ferguson of N. Battleford and G. Atkins of La Riviere, Manitoba.

In the 1960's I purchased bulls from E. Noad of High River; W. Bohannon of Carstairs and P. Gryba of Grandview, Manitoba.

In 1976 I bought out my brother Arthur's herd, consisting of 60 cows and formed a partnership, Calderon Cattle Co., with my son, Arden. We have used homebred bulls along with bulls purchased from Bar V Polled Hereford Ranch, Bruderheim and Remittall Cattle Co., Olds to improve our herd of 125 cows.

My dad, Henry Ziegler, passed away on April 17, 1978.

Ziegler, John and Irene

It was July the 9th (John's birthday) that was chosen as our Wedding Day. We were married in the manse of the First Presbyterian church (Edmonton) by Rev. Dr. McQueen. Marjory McCleery and Bill Ziegler were our attendants. I had been staying at Alex and Annie Connally's place before the wedding; so Grandpa and Grandma Ziegler invited them and Alcmena Bolton out for a reception dinner and the evening. This was a real surprise to both of us, but we were very pleased. The Suder cousins were waiting for us to go by — with rice and confetti — but a real thunderstorm saved us that time. Aunt Kate invited

us over the next day and we got it then, but it was worth it, her Angel food cakes and strawberries were wonderful.

We couldn't afford a honeymoon that year, so stayed at Grandpa Zieglers and kept house while the old folks went for a two-week holiday. We really had a picnic at home also.

Our first home was 14 foot by 16 foot granary with two windows and a door. It was sheeted up inside, but no insulation. That summer a cellar was dug by hand with a "slip" drawn by horses to take out the dirt. A slip is like a large scoop shovel with a handle on each side instead of at the back. The horses had been out in the pasture and were feeling so good they were hard to handle. John couldn't get them settled down, before one backed up a little and one hind foot slipped into the hole; this made her panic and in the end one horse was in on her back and the other head first. The men were able to get them unhitched. The one was fine but they couldn't save the one that went in first. She had been on her back too long. The house was then moved over the cellar. This with additions was to be our home for twenty years.

The summer of 1927 Rev. Steve Irvine and his family came to the Vegreville charge. We all enjoyed them. Rev. Irvine organized a young people's group at Park Grove that winter; we all enjoyed it and it continued for quite some time. Mrs. Irvine helped organize a W.M.S. Auxiliary the following summer. Their three little boys kept their home busy and happy.

The 1927 crop was heavy; binders and men were in much demand. There were many rainy days. Threshing was late and much of the crop was snowed under. The threshing crew consisted of eight bundle teams. These hauled the bundles to the separator; two field pitchers helped to load the racks and two spike pitchers helped unload at the machine.

The steam engine was still in use and that took an engineer (John); Tankie, (Bert C.); coal man, Mr. McCleery; and a separator man, George Z. Two men with four horse outfits hauled grain to the elevator. There were no grain quotas then.

The yield was good; the damp grain had to be shipped to Edmonton to be dried; this cost 5¢ per bushel. The last job of the season was to finish Bob Dewart's crop; the last morning Irene drove John to the outfit to steam up, with the horse and cutter about five a.m. When George came to the outfit he asked John how cold it was — "darn cold is all I know", John says. "40 below", George informed him.

They finished that morning and they pulled the outfit home right after dinner about the end of November.



John Ziegler family, 1947. (L. to R.) — Genevieve, Marguerite, John, Irene, and Lillian.



John Ziegler joined the Royal Northwest Mounted Police Cavalry in May 1918, in Regina. He spent one year in the British Isles, and was discharged in July, 1919. He has farmed and lived in the Vegreville district ever since.

Gertie Baldwin and I cooked for these men — three meals a day and afternoon lunch, all in our 14 foot by 16 foot house. It was a busy, happy time. When the whistle blew you started dishing up the food. There were no bunk houses for the men to sleep in so some of them went home and the rest were taken to Henry's as it was too cold to sleep in the hayloft.

Early in the spring of 1928 two bedrooms were added to our home. One of them was used as a sitting room and the trusty Winnipeg couch served as a chesterfield and opened to make a double bed.

The March of 1929 we didn't get our second Wheat Pool payment. Only the initial payment was made on the 1928 crop.

May 19th of 1929, our first daughter was born — Genevieve Irene — a healthy, happy baby who had very proud parents. Genevieve was the first grandchild for Irene's parents.

The 1929 crop was short and harvest completed early.

On the 29th of September, 1929 Grandpa Ziegler passed on in his 62nd year. He was a fine man and worked together with his boys. There was a real adjustment to be made by everybody.

During that winter we began to feel that Genevieve should be baptised; so we contacted Rev. Irving and made our plans (Rev. Irving was very forgetful), the first Sunday he'd forgotten the dish for the water and the water. So we decided the next Sunday would be fine. Next Sunday he had his baptismal book but no water. So Lorne went out and got some snow and put it on the register and by the time the sermon was finished the snow was melted and baptism ceremony was held. NOTE: This was in the country school house.

The winter of 1929 we began to feel the depression more. Cars were laid up and horses and sleighs were used. By spring all available horses were used to put in the crop. Grain prices dropped, as did livestock and farm produce. NOTE: The farmer that was out of debt didn't feel the hard times as much as the beginner.

We welcomed our second daughter — Marguerite Edna — on June 25, 1931, healthy, lively baby, and one that two-year-old Genevieve couldn't do enough for.

Arthur Cunningham (Bill and Ruth's boy) was born May 30 of the same year. We Mothers found it interesting watching the two little ones grow and change. Marguerite was always going somewhere and Arthur wasn't in nearly that much hurry. The two babies were baptised together that fall.

Hard times were beginning to show more all the time. Made-over clothes were the order of the day. But living on the farm was so much better than in

town. When the bread-winner was out of work, relief was the only answer.

The summer of 1933, it was very apparent that another little visitor would join our happy family. This was also the case in the Laird household. John and Sinclair would kid each other as to who would have a boy. Barbara Lillian was born July 10, 1933, putting an end to Daddy's speculating. Lairds had a little girl (Ina) the same fall. So both Daddies had three girls each and neither would have it any other way.

The summer Lillian was born, John used his first brush-cutter on Henry's south quarter; it was broken up that same year. This was the same season that Peggy Hunter helped with the threshers. There was a lot of rain that year; Henry had given John seed to plant his summer-fallow so Henry's cattle could have pasture. Well, the rain came and heat and our field for greenfeed made seed oats, and the summerfallow, wonderful greenfeed.

Lillian was baptised during the winter, but I'm not sure whether Ina was baptised at the same time. Rev. Armstrong was our Pastor at the time and Verna pianist.

Father Cunningham passed on after a lengthy illness in November, 1935. We all missed him. He was in his 71st year.

We built two more bedrooms the year of 1939.

Depression continued until we heard rumblings of another world war. It came in 1939. Then the prices began to pick up, but many of our young men were joining the force. It's hard to understand why this is but that seems to be history repeating itself. By 1940 help was hard to find and in 1941 John bought his first harvester combine. It was a time of trial and error but success in the end.

Old people, women, and children were all doing whatever they could to help the war effort.

In 1944 Grandma Cunningham came to make her home with us.

In 1945 we got electricity.

Our girls were growing up and well on in public school. They had many adventures going to and from school with their ponies. They could all ride or drive their horses.

Genevieve's first year she tried to ride her pony (Floss) to school but Floss, being a stubborn half-Shetland, thought otherwise and would bring her home instead of to school. Genevieve mastered her, but a lot of tears shed. Those first years John drove them in the winter.

The second year Marguerite was starting and John had made a little cart with wheels from a Bennett buggy. I painted the back of the seat red so they could be seen. They got along fine until one day

Genevieve was sick so Marguerite said, "Sure I can drive Floss", but — Floss brought her and Lillian home instead of going to school.

About 1940 the girls were able to handle a team and drove the democrat in summer and a stoneboat with a front on in the winter. There were holes in the platform of the stoneboat for the ski rope or toboggan or both.

In 1947 we built our new house with all the modern conveniences. Grandma had her own room.

The war was over by now and we met our new neighbors, Albert and Frankie Gafka. There were many changes in the neighborhood and we began to realize we were of an older generation.

The girls all took some high school; later each took a two-year course in Home Economics at the School of Agriculture at Vermilion. Lillian followed this course with a Nursing Aide course.

Marguerite was the first to marry. Marguerite and Joe Winter were married November 7, 1951.

Genevieve was married soon after. Genevieve and Robert Weder were married January 21, 1953.

Lillian took a Nursing Aide course and worked for a while; then Earl came into her life. Lillian and Earl Towe were married August 15, 1956. Rev. Bert Mather officiated at each wedding.

Grandma Cunningham passed on to her reward in July of 1954 in her 88th year. In July 1962 I became Martron of the Senior Citizens Home and continued until 1967. By this time John had rented the land and had reserved the buildings and 20 acres. This home and acreage was later sold to Ed and Betty Brimacombe.

John bought a home in Vegreville in 1965.

As time went on, a new generation came along, and called us Grandpa and Grandma.

Marguerite and Joe had five sons and two daughters: Joseph, Douglas, Maurice, Richard and James, Barbara and Jeanie.

Genevieve and Robert have one son and three daughters: Judith (Judy), Kenneth, Catherine and Audrey.

Lillian and Earl had one son and two daughters: Dale, Brenda, and Patricia.

Judy was married to Ron Koneiczny in November of 1971. Later Lori-Ann and Timmy came along to make us great-grandparents.

This brings us pretty well to our Golden Wedding, which we celebrated on July 9, 1977.

We moved to the Senior Citizen home in Viking, September 1976, and are very happy.

Ziegler, William and Jessie **by Jessie French Ziegler**

Bill's father, Amiel Ziegler, came from Elmira,

Ontario, and his mother Barbara Hodel, from Germany. They met and married in Elmira and later moved to Winterburn, Alberta, where the family of nine children were born and raised. More information can be found in "Memory Trails of Winterburn" history book. Bill is second youngest of the family. He attended St. John School at Winterburn and attended Alberta College, taking bookkeeping. He married Martha Baron of Stony Plain in 1931 and they had two children — Jack Amiel born in 1932 and Audrey Carol in 1936. Martha passed away in 1938.

Jack married Betty McNallie of Winterburn and they have two children, Catherine Susan born in 1958 and Tom William in 1961. Jack is a head operator at the Chevron Standard Gas plant east of Alix where they live. Betty passed away on June 30, 1979.

Audrey married William Cheresnuik July 13, 1956. They have two boys — Michael in Edmonton and Rodney who is going to University in Calgary.

My parents, Henry Thomas French and Zelma Holt, came from the southern United States of America and settled at Wainwright, Alberta, where I, four sisters, and one brother were born and raised. Further information can be found in the Wainwright book, "Buffalo Trails and Tales."

In 1941 Bill and I were married and lived at Winterburn for two years, then moved to Vegreville and rented the Davis farm in the Park Grove district for five years. We bought and moved to our present home, the Robert Wilson farm, N.E. ¼ of 14-53-15-W4th in the spring of 1948. Also bought SW ¼ of 14 and S.W. 80 acres of N.W. ¼ of 14-53-15-W4th from Mrs. William Davis. Upon retirement in 1973 we sold these two pieces of land to Ted Dake. The remaining quarter where we are now living is rented to our neighbors. Our family consists of two boys.

Charles William was born in 1944 and Bryce Henry in 1947.

Church services were still being held in Park Grove school when we moved here. It was there that Charles was baptised. He took his first year of schooling in 1950, at Park Grove, along with Bernard Payne, Lawrence Ferguson and Gregg Ziegler. William Marchak was their teacher. The following year all of the Park Grove children travelled by bus to attend school in Vegreville.

When we came to the district in 1943 there were few high-graded and gravelled roads so snow and mud were a problem. In winter, if there was less snow in the fields than on the road, then that was the route we would take. If it rained, we stayed home, unless the trip was absolutely necessary. Bill recalls an election for councillor held in March. Park Grove was one of the polls. There was a heavy snowfall and blizzard for two days prior to the election. The day



The home of Bill and Jessie Ziegler since 1948. Formerly the Robert Wilson farm. 1968.

dawned bright and clear, but all the roads were plugged. The Deputy Returning Officer and clerk, Leonard Timanson and Harry Semotiuk, walked on the hard snow banks all the way. John Nicholson, Bill Ziegler, Art Payne and Gordon Brennan came on skis. Mike Schultz started out on horseback. The horse played out, so he turned it loose and walked and crawled over snowbanks, along with Albert Gafka the rest of the way. They were so tired they could hardly make it up the school steps. George and Jeannette Ferguson came by sleigh through the field and had to stop and rest the team several times, although it was less than a half mile. Out of a possible fifty only ten arrived to vote.

In 1966, an afternoon tea put on by our neighbors to celebrate our 25th Wedding Anniversary, was held in the school, which was by then the Community Centre.

Bill was on the Park Grove school board for three years and was Secretary-Treasurer of the Park Grove rural telephone company for twenty years, taking over after Buster Jennings had spent about the same number of years as Secretary-Treasurer. We have enjoyed taking part in the Community Centre organization and the farm organizations, and our affiliation with the United Church has been and is a great help to us.

Our family has grown. Charles married Catherine Wruck of Edmonton. They have two children, Ian Edward and Darren Jessie. Charles is an Air Traffic Controller at the Edmonton International Airport. Catherine is a Registered Nurse and nurses part-time at the University Hospital.

Bryce married Donna Wade of Vegreville. They have two children, Keltey Lynn and Kevin Wade. Bryce is a Metallurgical Engineer, Donna a graduate from N.A.I.T. in Business Administration.

We have enjoyed living in the Park Grove district and this is the reason we decided to remain here during our retirement.

Zuk, Kaz and Lena

by Lena Zuk

Lena was born in Royal Park. She attended Kolomea rural school, Vegreville High School, and colleges in Olds and Calgary.

Kaz was born in Saskatchewan, then moved with



Bill Zuk, while in Igloolik, 1966, receiving a plaque from an R.C.M.P. inspector of Frobisher Bay, N.W. Territories, for designing a number of badges which were unique to skills appropriate to Northern Scouting.

his family to Trail, B.C. at ten years of age. He attended school here, and played football and soccer.

Sons Bill and Edward were born in Trail. The family lived in Trail for eight years. In 1948 they moved to Royal Park, and farmed on SE ¼-6-53-15W, 4th.

Bill attended Ryan Rural School. Later he and Ed were bussed to Vegreville schools. Both played basketball on the Vegreville High School teams. Ed played the saxophone in the school band.

Both exhibited vegetables and grains at the Vegreville Fair; they also belonged to the Vegreville Public Library, and were supervisors of the Vegreville Swimming Pool. Ed belonged to the 4-H Dairy Club. Both were Queen Scouts and attended World Jamborees; Bill in England and Ed in Greece. They graduated from the University of Alberta. They played football for the U of A Golden Bears. Bill wrestled and was captain of the U of A wrestling team.

Through the Department of Northern Affairs Bill taught in Igloolik for one year and in Fort Chimo for two years. In B.C. he taught in an Indian village called Hartley Bay. He obtained his doctorate in education and has been lecturing at the University of Victoria, B.C. Ed was formerly an executive with Xerox of Canada, now in real estate development in Calgary.

Kaz served four years in the R.C.A.F. He belongs to the Vegreville Legion and serves on different committees. He was secretary-treasurer of the Royal Park Telephone Company, and used to belong to Uniform.

Lena belonged to the Vegreville United Church Choir for a number of years. She is a member of the Vegreville Public Library, and a Volunteer at the Vegreville Auxiliary and Nursing Home.

There have been a number of changes in the community. There is no post office in the Royal Park Store any more, and mail is delivered from Vegreville by car to mail boxes at the gates or mail boxes by the store. Two elevators are gone; the Alberta Pacific was moved away and the Searle was demolished. Only the Wheat Pool remains.

Rail service to passengers was discontinued in the early seventies. The railway station was sold and moved away. The Greyhound bus still stops at the store.

The community hall by the store, where there were dances, meetings, and elections, was sold. Money received is being used to improve the Royal Park cemetery.

Zwierschke, Amil and Annie **by Ross Zwierschke**

Some time in the winter of 1907-1908 Amil Zwierschke sold his three-chair barber shop in Carleton Place, Ontario and took the advice of "Go West, young man, go West."

In the early spring he set out for Prince Rupert, which was soon to be opened to settlement, but he was too early and was held back in Vancouver. Not caring for what he saw there, he came back to Edmonton. He was advised to go to Vegreville which he did. He found employment in Tom Tates barber shop and looked for a farm or homestead. Homesteads were all taken up but he put his name in so if one was abandoned he could file on it. He purchased a quarter-section from Louie Jacobson south of the correction line.

In July his wife Annie and son Ross joined him. They lived in Vegreville the winter of 1908-1909. In April they moved to the farm. Two more sons were born, Charlie and James.

The boys attended school in the Longridge district east of Holden. They were active in community affairs, and Amil became a councillor in the municipal improvement district in the early times, and again in the county of Patricia, becoming the Reeve in the late thirties. He was also a trustee in the Radio School district which was formed in the mid-twenties to meet the need in that area which had no school.

He passed away at the age of 72 and was buried in the Holden Cemetery. His wife Annie lived to the age of 86, keeping house for Jim who never married.

They were all active in community affairs of their day. Jim still resides on the home farm. He was the founding Secretary-Treasurer of the Martins R.E.A.

All the boys finished their education in the V.S.A. in the thirties.

The boys were active in community sports, baseball, Radio team in the summer, and in the winter they built a rink in the cow corral and hockey was the order of the day all winter. Ross and Charlie played violin and guitar and provided music for country dances at homes, in Adams, Ideal, Longridge, Radio and Imperial districts in the late twenties and early thirties.

Ross married Margaret Giebelhaus in 1936 and they lived on the Holden Road until they sold their farm in 1974 when they retired to Vegreville where they are presently living. They have one daughter, Lorraine. She taught school in Holden and Ryley until her marriage to Ed Duliba of Lavoy. They have two children, Sandra and Kathie, and are residing in Fort Saskatchewan.

Charlie married Mary Wyllie and lives on his farm in the Adams district. They have two children,

Allan who farms with his father, and Norma who became a school teacher. She married Marvin Westrom. Both children were active in 4-H. Allan joined the Vegreville Exhibition Board as a junior and served his term as president a few years ago. He married Olive Gilpin. She still commutes to Viking to teach.

Zylenko, John and Kate

by Ann (Zylenko) Aldred

John and Kate Zylenko settled in the Vegreville district, so far as memory serves them, in the autumn of 1934. They sold their eighty acres near Hairy Hill and purchased from Valentine Gough the quarter-section legally described as the NW¼ 22-53-14 W4, and located 2½ miles east and 2 miles south of Warwick (a tiny hamlet where they sold their grain, bought their groceries, and picked up their mail for many years — before all the “action” had shifted to the town of Vegreville itself). More specifically, their quarter-section is located in the Brush Hill School District, where seven of their eight surviving children attended school under the expert tutelage of George N. Hosking and or William D. Barber.

During the six months or so that a house was being built on this quarter-section, the Zylenko's rented from Jack Steinbach a house “just across the road” at the rate of \$2.00 per month. Around the month of September, John and Kate and their four children (Mike, Mary, Rose and Ann) moved to the spot they call home to the present day.

The commencement of farming on this particular quarter was, comparatively speaking, something of a breeze — there were 70 acres already broken, and they started with five horses, later increasing this to a ten-horse operation, and later still graduating to tractor power. John's father, by contrast, had started farming in Canada in 1910 with a pair of oxen. John was ten years old at the time and he not only remembers the oxen but had to do his share of the farmwork with this ancient and primitive form of power. He saw it increase to eight oxen — horses being a much later luxury.

John came to Canada when he was nine years of age. He arrived with his parents, Wasyl and Maritza, and two brothers (Harry, aged 12 and Nick, aged 1½) in 1909. The parents' decision to leave their native Ruthenia — then a part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire — was to a great extent influenced by the Bosnia-Herzegovina Annexation crisis of 1908-1909 when war amongst some of the major European powers and between Austria and Russia in particular, seemed imminent. The family spent a year at Win-



Kate Zylenko (middle) with two friends, about 1922.

nipeg before coming further west and settling at Pruth — some six miles south of Willingdon. Kate herself was born in Alberta in the Andrew district. Her father, Metro Wowk, however, was born in the Ukraine, while her mother's people — the Musurichans — came from the Wallachiani/Moldavian region of Rumania.

Of course the years around 1934 were the height of the depression and in that sense times were tough, as everyone who experienced it is only too well aware. John remembers taking a terrible loss on his 1930 grain crop — holding off selling in hopes of a rumoured better price, and watching it drop from \$1.35 to \$0.67 per bushel. He ended up \$50.00 short on his farm payment to the bank, which he had to make up by selling some of the following year's seed grains. The seven-year drought is another disaster all farmers suffered to a greater or lesser degree. Year after year the heavy-hearted farmers saw their hard work go for naught, while many children, in their blissful ignorance, rejoiced because there was so much less stooking to do.

Around 1945 John went to the coal mines (in the Edson area) in order to finance the purchase of another quarter-section of land. After three winters at this hard and often dangerous work, while Kate staunchly looked after the farm and cared for the children, they bought from Bronken the quarter-section immediately to the north of the home quarter (SW¼ 27-53-14 W4). It was about this time also that the family came to own its first tractor, and what an exciting event it was! The irony of it all is that this second-hand John Deere with lugs, at a price of \$1,475.00, was \$50.00 or so more than a new one with tires would have cost — this was because new



Kate and John Zylenko, 1929. Son Mike (sitting), daughter Mary (in father's arms). At home near Hairy Hill.

tractors were simply unavailable at that particular time. In any case, the several benefits far outweighed the extra cost.

It is virtually by default that the Zylenko family settled in the Vegreville district inasmuch as John and Kate had originally intended to homestead near Grande Prairie. Around the mid-twenties, they had obtained a homestead at Rycroft, about 38 miles north-east of Grande Prairie, but soon gave it up because there was no drinking water to be found. Around 1931 they obtained another homestead — at Wanham, about 48 miles northeast of Grande Prairie. As things transpired, the family was unable to fulfill the requirement of six months per year residence on the property, so that 30 acres of breaking and \$800.00 worth of improvements were lost. The Homestead Authorities offered \$21.00 as compensation for the improvements, though John eventually managed to increase this recovery to the still pathetic sum of \$60.00. His greatest handicap lay in the fact that he could neither read nor write English (this, irony of ironies, despite the fact that the Pruth School had been built right on his father's land, his

help was desperately needed on the farm, though every day for two weeks he ran away to school and every day was punished by his father for doing so. Kate's school experience was not much happier. After only two or three months' attendance, the school closed down for lack of a teacher — and later her step-mother saw no need for sending girls to school when there was much work to be done at home.) There appears to have been, at best, a misunderstanding on the part of John's interpreter; at worst, a deception on the part of the land office in question where the cancellation of this second homestead was concerned. A \$2.00 fee requested by letter from the land office was interpreted to John as being a fee to retain the homestead in good standing, but upon payment the same was purported to represent a cancellation fee. Be that as it may, John calculated that it would take a minimum of \$100.00 to reinstate his ownership of that parcel of land. None the less, the Depression was on and he was able to scrape up only \$24.00 (By selling his new car battery for \$4.00 and his new \$100.00 granary for \$30.00, of which he received only \$20.00), and with this he set out to "save the homestead." In these dire circumstances, John decided he would have to "beat the train", which meant, of course, riding without paying. He got as far as Slave Lake before he was "bumped." Over his fifty-cent meal, John took careful stock of his situation — then headed back home; sold his 80 acres for \$1,900.00 and bought the Gough quarter mentioned above for \$1,500.00 (a somewhat happier irony!)

In retrospect, however, both John and Kate, as well as their children (the four not yet mentioned being Leo or Geno, Andy, Lawrence and Helen) are quite happy that circumstances forced them to settle in the Vegreville district. In 1972, they added Philip Mohr's quarter-section to their holdings and shortly thereafter, John sold all but the house and yard to two of the boys — and he and Kate are still living on the old home quarter in what is laughingly referred to as "retirement".

And Other Families



Michael Samoil Family, 1953. Back row (l. to r.) — Michael Samoil, Michael Kousaie, Sheila Kousaie, Mary Kousaie (Michael Samoil's daughter), Catherine Chilibeck (Michael Samoil's daughter). Front row (l. to r.) — Annie (Malowany) Samoil (Michael Samoil's wife, and mother of Mary Kousaie and Catherine Chilibeck), and Maria Malowany (mother of Annie Samoil). The Michael Samoil family (he was the son of Dmytro and Caterina Samoil) farmed 8 miles southwest of Two Hills. He served as trustee of Wolia School and councillor of the M.D. of Norma. He retired to Vegreville where he passed away in 1970. Mrs. Samoil continues to reside in Vegreville. Daughter Catherine is teaching in Edmonton, and daughter Mary is living in Ohio, U.S.A. Son John married Mary Fedoruk and lives in Winnipeg.



Linda (1961) and Trevor Petruk (1968), children of Milton and Ruby Petruk and grandchildren of Tom and Mary Petruk.



Tom Petruk Family, 1960. Back row (l. to r.) — daughter Alexandra and husband William Krysak, son Milton (Doctor of Philosophy Degree in Education, 1973) and wife Ruby. Front row (l. to r.) — Tom Petruk (father), Shirley Krysak, Mary Petruk (mother). Tom came to Canada from Western Ukraine in 1928. Among all the places he worked, one was Tom Fedoruk's farm where he met and married Mary Fedoruk in 1931. They farmed near Warwick, north of Vegreville, where they raised two children, Alexandra and Milton. Tom and Mary have retired in Vegreville.



Harry F. Chilibeck Family, about 1929. Top left — Harry and Anna Chilibeck. Bottom left — son Peter. Right — other children — back row (l. to r.) — Mary, Kate, Helen. Front row (l. to r.) — Joe, Nick. Harry came from Western Ukraine in 1901. In 1906 he married Anna Fedoruk and farmed in the Sich District northwest of Vegreville. Anna passed away in 1929, leaving six children: Peter, Helen, Mary, Kate, Nick and Joe. (See Chilibeck photo p. 1014.)



Dmytro and Paranka Zuk Family, 1922. Back row (l. to r.) — Parents — Paranka and Dmytro Zuk, Annie Shpur (Paranka's sister). Front row (l. to r.) — Children — Mike, Sophie, Joe, Peter.



Dmytro and Paranka Zuk Family. Back row (l. to r.) — sons Mike, Paul, Joe and Peter. Front row — daughter Sophie with mother Paranka, 1965. Dmytro Zuk, son of Harry and Anna Zuk, who had a large family, came to Canada in 1900, having emigrated from Halychyna (Ukraine). Dmytro married Paraskewia (Paranka) Lotoshynski in 1915 and they had five children: Joseph 1916, Peter 1917-1977, Mike 1918, Sophie 1920, and Paul 1932. Joe married Pearl Shimko; they have three children: Susan, David and Dale. Peter married Mary Wowk; they have three children: Patricia, Jane and Gary. Mike married Annie Sadownyk and they have three children: Sharon, Cheryl and Charlene (twins). Sophie married Paul Puk; to this union were born three girls: Gladys, Adeline and Karen. Paul married Elizabeth Pawluk and they have one daughter Valerie. Some Zuk recollections: log clay house on farm, straw mattresses, primitive machinery, homemade caskets, 1918 'flu, slough hay, horse-and-sleigh rides to school, hauling sheaves at threshing, white-washing house, building roads in lieu of taxes, rabbit stew, hauling rocks to build hospital and convent, bees for hauling grain and sawing wood, clearing brush before plowing, and farmyard chores.



Joe Zuk Family, 1979. (l. to r.) — son David holding Rhonda, Joe (father), Sharon (David's wife), son Dale, Pearl (mother), Kim (Dale's wife), daughter Susan, Douglas Bill Stecyk (Susan's husband), and Shane and little Allen (children of Susan and Douglas Bill Stecyk). Susan is a graduate of the Vermilion School. David and Dale graduated in brick-laying from NAIT. Joe and Pearl, who still live on the farm, have three grandchildren: Rhonda, Shane and Allen.



Family Reunion — 61st Wedding Anniversary of Harry and Magdeline Bilyk. Presesnt are their sons, daughters, sons-in-law, daughters-in-law, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Photo taken at John Bilyk's place, 1962. Harry and Magdeline (Cebryk) Bilyk got married in 1902 and came to Canada from Western Ukraine the same year. They farmed about 18 miles southwest of Vegreville. Harry and Magdeline raised ten children, nine of whom survive. Mike passed away in 1980. The parents, Harry and Magdeline were called to their eternal rest in the 1960's.



61st Wedding Anniversary of Harry and Magdeline Bilyk, 1962. Standing (l. to r.) — sons — John, Nick, Peter, Mike, Lloyd, Steve. Sitting (l. to r.) — daughters — Doris (iHawrysh), Mary (Homenick), parents — Harry and Magdeline, daughters Annie (Chermshynski), Nancy (Faryna). Photo taken at John Bilyk's place, 1962.



The Glen Shaws, 1926.



Doreen, Helen and Marjory Lane hauling water for the house — 5 miles round trip, 1944.



Glen Shaw with his 1926 Ford at Birch Lake, 1926.



Bill Rogers, Vegreville Town Constable, in the backyard of the little home next to the Dr. Couillards, whose part roof is seen top left. About 1920.



Rodd Dunn with some of his prize potatoes, 1960's.



Ray Pearce, machinist at Thomas Garage, early 1960's.



Harry F. Chilibeck Family, 1957. (l. to r.) — son John, Mildred and Harry Chilibeck, daughter Elsie. After his first wife Anna died, Harry married Mildred Zabudniak in 1930. To this union were born two children: Elsie and John.



Picnic, 1917. Cole, Trenhaile and Shaw families.



By Burk Roberts' farm home, near Vegreville — 1914.



Sawing wood on Gorsline farm, 1917.



Plowing with 6 horses — Marianich farm, 1920's.



Ukrainian wedding, 1919.



Ukrainian Christmas pageant, about 1920.

The Way It Was



Vegreville's north side, about 1930. Location is one block southeast of Holy Trinity Catholic Church. First H.T. Church in background.



Mr. Pugh, his children and their pet roosters, 1961.



Cave-in at Adler's Department Store excavation, mid-1960's. On right — Muzyka and Tunis Department Store with gaping hole in foundation.



Welcoming guests from Friendship Train — Chamber of Commerce banquet, 1960.

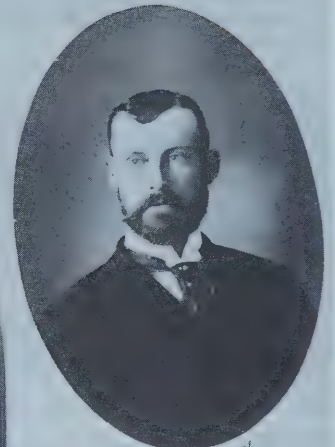
VEGREVILLE SCHOOL BOARD 1908



J. H. WINKMAN



WM. CLEMENT



F. HARRISON



E. J. HADDEN



A. L. NORTON



J. H. WINKMAN

Rge. 16 N Rge. 15

27	26	25	30	29	28
22 A. Mikew J. Marguk J. Skripitski J. Topilko	23 J. Marguk J. Skripitski J. Topilko	24 A. Bogdanitski J. Topilko	19 A. Svarich F. Kostash S. Parayko S. Svarich	20 J. Svarich D. Semenchuk	21 J. Svarich D. Semenchuk
15	14 A. Mikew J. Marguk J. Skripitski J. Topilko	13 A. Bogdanitski J. Topilko	18 A. Svarich F. Kostash S. Parayko S. Svarich	17 J. Svarich D. Semenchuk	16 J. Svarich D. Semenchuk
10 A. Obal S. Obal J. Obal	11 A. Obal S. Obal J. Obal	12 A. Obal S. Obal J. Obal	2 A. Obal S. Obal J. Obal	8 A. Obal S. Obal J. Obal	9 A. Obal S. Obal J. Obal
3 A. Obal S. Obal J. Obal	4 A. Obal S. Obal J. Obal	5 A. Obal S. Obal J. Obal	6 A. Obal S. Obal J. Obal	7 A. Obal S. Obal J. Obal	8 A. Obal S. Obal J. Obal

HOMESTEADS--
EVEN Nos.
C.P.R. LAND--
ODD Nos.
HUDSON BAY LAND--
SEC. # 8 & 26
SCHOOL LAND--
SEC. # 11 & 29
Twp. 53
E

Twp. 52

KOLOMEA S.D. #1507

EARLY 1900'S

FIRST RESIDENTS (OWNERS)

Kolomea S.D. #1507. Early 1900's.

Twp. 52

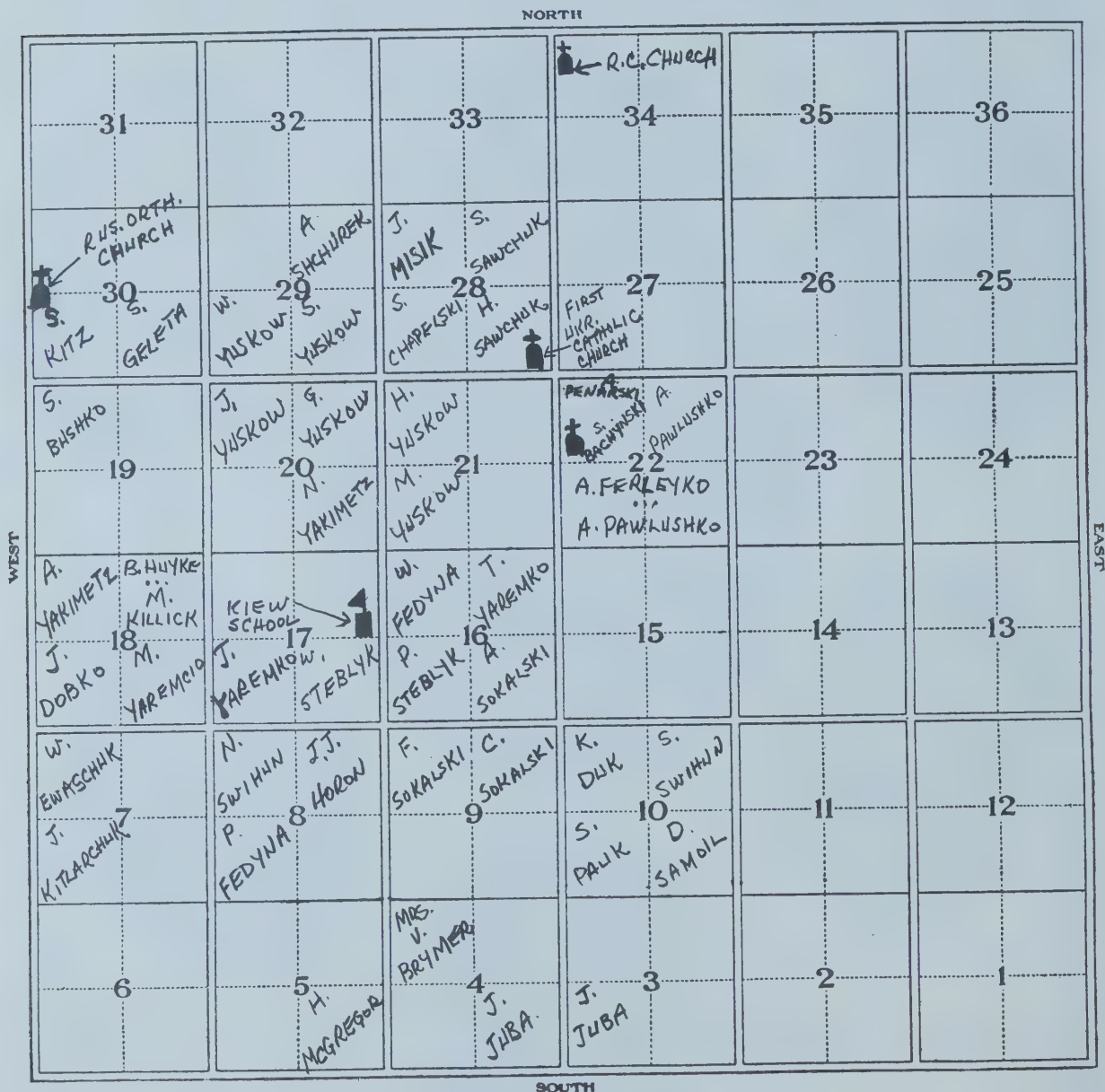
33
Twp. 53
Twp. 52

NEW KIEW DISTRICT

FIRST RESIDENTS OF KIEW SCHOOL DISTRICT #1693

EARLY 1900'S

TOWNSHIP 53 RANGE 13 WEST OF 4TH MERIDIAN



HOMESTEADS - EVEN NOS.
 C.P.R. LAND - ODD NOS.
 HUDSON BAY LAND - SEC. # 8+26
 SCHOOL LAND - SEC. # 11+29

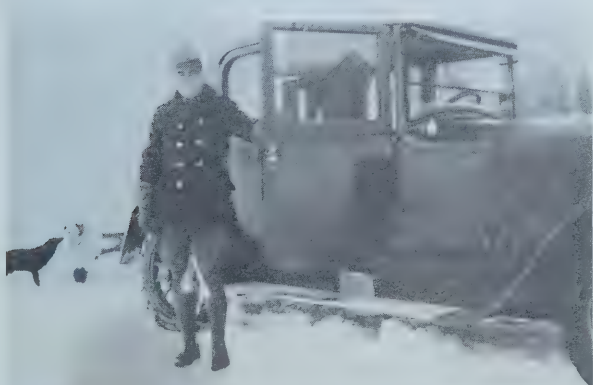
Cars



The old and the new — 1927 Chev. and 1938 Plymouth. Oscar Benoit's log home in background, 1938. Note side curtains.



Oscar and Lilly Johnson at Dunham's new home (later Paul Landry's home), 1919.



Constable Tate — friend of Andrew and Frances Sayko, early 1930's. Note the chains.



Malbon Campbell snowbound close to home, March, 1951.



Mr. and Mrs. John G. Giebelhaus and their Model T Ford; children are Bertha, Wm. A., Leah, and Lydia. Early 1920's. Note the chains.



1914 Model T Ford, Glenna Ross in foreground.

Farm Animals



Loyal Tillapaugh and team of mules, Maud and Daisy, 1925.



Trimble barn. Ormy and Jock, about 1925. Barn still standing near the highway, 3 miles west of Vegreville.



John Porozni's fieldwork outfit, 1937.



Mark Atkinson with his prize Jerseys, 1943.



Mr. and Mrs. John Tillapaugh on their farm at Warwick, looking at their herd of cattle, 1928.



Log barn and livestock of Roy Trimble, 1931.

Farming through the Years

Ploughing



Summerfallowing on Henry Ziegler farm. Arthur Ziegler in front of horses and Henry on first tiller, 1939.



Walking plow used in the early days by William Triska on N.E. 10-53-15-W4, 1920.



Grover McMullen ploughing on his farm with a 15-30 McCormick-Deering tractor, 1920.



Sam Werezuk with four-bottom plough, 1927.

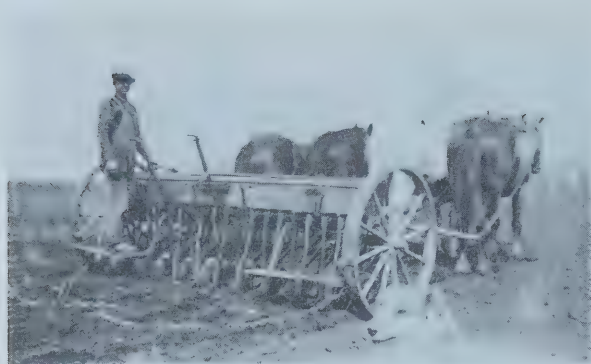


Horses hitched to the disc used to break up lumps on new plowing on William Triska farm, 1923.



Alex and Bill Ziegler breaking land on section near Vegreville, 1928.

Seeding and Haying



Sam Werezuk drilling with four horses, 1927.



Cutting feed for cattle on Chris Schnieder farm, 1953.



Marjory Lane — seeding, 1929.



Arthur Ziegler hauling a load of hay at Henry Ziegler farm, 1940.



Ken, Wally and Herman Eberhardt standing, and on tractor is Harry Eberhardt who just pulled into the yard with 2 loads of hay bales, 1970.



Lloyd Tuck on haysweep, 1920.

Harvesting



Cutting grain with binder on Arthur Ziegler farm. Arthur on tractor and Gordon on binder, 1944.



Henry Trenhaile ready to cut grain, 1942.



Floyd and Boyd Tuck cutting grain, 1928.



Threshing — Richard Kay's team and wagon, about 1930. Left to right: Conrad Gielbelhaus, Irvin Erhardt, Wm. A. Gielbelhaus.



Threshing from stacks. Note portable engine. Franciszka Strychaluk farm, 1913.



Threshing on Ed Harter's farm, 1935.



A threshing crew in full swing, 1934.



Water boy and tank hauling water for the steamer. Outfit owned by L. Freeman, moving to thresh at William Triska's farm, 1923.



Threshing with Leigh Freeman's Rumely tractor, 1925.



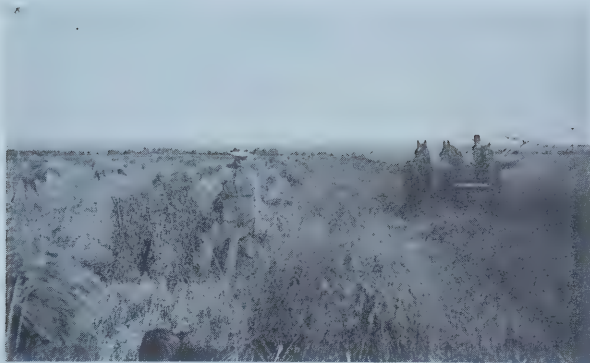
Threshing around 1920.



Grover McMullen and his brother Otto at Warwick with their threshing machine with a Garscott steam engine, 1925.



Threshing — Kostash farm, 1920's.



Oscar Johnson on the Champion binder; no trucks then. Chris Nelson stooking, 1911.



John Mast on tractor, Jim Quinn, Stan Thomson in truck. Combining on Thomson farm, 1945.



Threshing at Andrew Sayko's farm, 1940. Raymond and Sally up front. Andrew atop threshing machine separator.



Floyd and Lawrence Hubbard combining, April 26, 1970.



Floyd, Yvonne, Charley Hubbard threshing, 1935. Grain was hauled from the machine by horse and wagon, then shovelled into a bin in yard.



Modern harvesting methods at Mike and John Sawiak's farm, 1970's.

Let's visit the Pysanka



The Pysanka (Ukrainian Easter Egg), a landmark at the park and campsite south of the hospitals, was erected in 1974. It is the largest Easter Egg in the world. Designed and manufactured, rather expensively through computerized science, it commemorates the R.C.M.P. Centennial and recognizes a century of cultural progress. The Pysanka is the greatest tourist attraction in this part of the province. It is being immortalized in the thousands of photos taken of it every year. The monumental landmark will, no doubt, appear in the Guinness Book of World Records. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and her husband Prince Philip visited the historic landmark on August 2, 1978, at the time of Vegreville's diamond anniversary. The Queen unveiled a plaque commemorating her visit to Vegreville and signed the town's guest book. Note the Royal Couple under the Pysanka, and the Ukrainian dancers. (Photo courtesy of Ernie's Photo Studio.)

Let's go to the Fair



Vegreville Exhibition Parade heading east on Highway 16 (Prince Edward Hotel in background). Vegreville Exhibition officials John Ziegler and Charles Brinton in back seat. About 1960.

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